

Friday, December 16, 1988/1910
Agrahayana 25, 1910 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Friday, December 16, 1988/Agrahayana
25, 1910 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of labour is present here in the House, therefore Through you, I would like to tell him that the owners of big newspapers previously used to appoint the editors only on contract basis but now they have started appointing sub-editors, reporters, law reporters staff reporters and correspondents also on a contract basis.

MR. SPEAKER: You give me in writing, I will look into it.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: This will curb the freedom of the press.

MR. SPEAKER: It's is enough now please sit down.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): While agreeing with him on that issue, let me draw your attention to another issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You are killing two birds with one stone.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I totally agree

with him For once I find myself in agreement with him.

MR. SPEAKER: For once you are together. You are not two, you are eleven now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: An extraordinary situation has arisen because NABARD has completely stopped the flow of credit to cooperative institutions in as many as seven States. You have permitted me under Rule 377

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you under Rule 377. I also agree with you on one thing, that there should be a *via media* by which the poor farmer does not suffer. There should be a *via media*, there should be a compromise between the two and we also should try to find a way out. I think I will ask the Finance Minister to look into it that the institution should not be destroyed for cheap gimmicks and we must realise that certain things are put in proper order so that the institution also goes on and the farmers do not suffer.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I had given an adjournment motion. I am withdrawing that.

MR. SPEAKER: Right Thank you very much.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): We are facing a great difficulty in respect of energy in the Kashmir Province, due to acute shortage of electricity.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have got it done.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: You had been kind enough that time.

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask him again to see to it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: There remains a complete black out for four days in a week. The circulars are being sent daily by the new Minister, Shri Kalpnath Rai to invite the suggestions with a view to solve the problem. We have given suggestion four times but again we have received a fresh circular. He should arrange to stay for full four days in Kashmir. Jammu may be less affected because of the availability of power there from Salal.

[English]

We cannot take electricity to Kashmir because there are no transmission lines

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If power is not made available to them, they will be totally freeze'd.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: This is the winter season and now-a-days the temperature in Kashmir of below the freezing point. If Shri Sathie is unable to go there, at least Shri Kalpnath Rai should go there.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): A pathetic story of a rape victim has come out in the *National Herald*.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a State subject, what can I do.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: It is not a State subject. It is the concern of the whole country.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shantaram, why

you are forcing me to do a wrong thing?

SHRI SHANTARAM: Sir, this is not a wrong thing.

MR. SPEAKER: You may contact the Home Ministry. Neither I nor this House has got anything to do in this regard. This is a state subject.

PRO. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, what are your directions for the Minister of Energy?

MR. SPEAKER: I will write to them.

[English]

I will ask them. I will ask the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Sir, Shri Jagdev Singh Talwandi has said that in the enquiry being conducted regarding fatal attack on him that his relatives are being apprehended by the policy. The persons nominated have not been called for. He is completely dissatisfied with this.

MR. SPEAKER: You give me in writing, I will forward it.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Yesterday you assured me, that you will consider the motion which I tabled, under Rule 184 regarding the action of the Governor of Kerala in refusing to sign an ordinance approved by the State Government.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

You please listen to me also.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed.

I have to get certain clarifications.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):
Sir, today is the last day. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The problem is that I have to go through the process and if I find the motion is in order, then I will do it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now I have allowed Mr. Patel.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, you always persist like that.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dandavate, kindly restrain your friend.

SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOT-
TAMBHAI PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I made contact with the hon. Minister of Agriculture. He told me that Government would pay for Crop Insurance to the farmers. Almost a year is going to pass but the farmers have not received the insurance money. The should be paid the insurance money at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: I will talk to him. I do not trust insurance agencies.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur):
Mr. Speaker, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bairagi, I am seeing your hand. I think your hand is not cooperating with the 'Bairagi' you have accepted as a way of life.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE
(Panskura): Sir, on 16.8.1988 the Minister for Home Affairs assured me on the floor of the House that the murder of an Adivasi boy under Chaibasa police station in Bihar will be inquired into... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You give me in writing, I will ask for the information. The committee on Government Assurances is also there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Labour Minister to assure the House that the report of the Bachhawat Commission regarding the journalists will be made available by the months...

MR. SPEAKER: You give it in writing.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: The hon. Minister is present here and he can say that the report will be available by 30th December.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rawat, I did not allow you. I have asked him to give it in writing so that this may go in record. I will also write. In this way it will be doubly sure.

[English]

That is what I am trying to do.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Besides

that, I would like to know the time when the Government proposes to appoint a commission regarding the pension to journalists.

MR. SPEAKER: I will talk to him

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Udhampur): Sir, I would like to tell the Minister of Surface Transport that the construction work of the road from Buddal to Ramban, started by his Ministry is not yet complete and it has been stopped.

MR. SPEAKER: Give me in writing, I will get it done.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: More than one lakh people of that area are in great difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Chowdhary.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): You are also Chowdhary, Sir,

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Sir, today is the last day of this Session

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister is going to visit China. It is a very important event, I think. We should make a reference and this House should express its good wishes for the visit of the prime Minister to China. We hope that there would be a development of better relations between the two countries.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you.

[English]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: We support him.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Well done, well done. Chawdhry Sahib. Our culture, nature, religion, our deeds and our atmosphere indicate that we desire peace. We do not want to create troubles. We are always ready for friendly relations but if anyone does not want to, it is upto him

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, Mr. Chowdhary deserves congratulations... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, give him all the credit. The credit goes to him. I only support him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, time and again I have drawn the attention of the House to the fact that the issue of the minimum wages to 40 lakhs Bedit workers of the country is still pending and many State Governments have not implemented the minimum wages...

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a subject of the State or of the Centre?

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Unless the Central Minister interferes...

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask him to do it. But sometimes you object to the interference by the Central Government and now you are demanding the Minister of the Centre to interfere.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: I have

written a letter and made a request also.

11.12 hrs.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are some districts in Rajasthan, large parts of which have been declared as dark zones

MR. SPEAKER: Which are these particular areas?

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN. Jhunjhunu and Sikar. Sir, through you, I would like to make an appeal to the hon. Minister of Agriculture to alleviate the condition of these dark zones so that the farmers could get the facilities for which they are entitled. Due to their being declared as dark zones the facilities have not reached the farmers

MR. SPEAKER: Please proceed.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN Sir, through you, I request the hon. Minister to alleviate the condition of these dark zones at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Khan, it will be done.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of important irrigation schemes in our area are pending with the Central Government for the last 10 to 13 years. For example, Muhana dam is pending for last 13 years and the Punpun Daradha Project for the last 8 years. I request the Government to approve the proposals at the earliest so that work could be started on these projects.

MR. SPEAKER: I will enquire how many projects are still pending.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Statement regarding review on the working of and Annual Report of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd, Allahabad and Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd, Ranchi for 1987-88 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, on behalf of Shri J. Vengal Rao, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited, Allahabad, and its Subsidiaries, for the year 1987-88.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited, Allahabad, and its Subsidiaries for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7081/88]
- (b) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1987-88.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-7082/88]

Review of the working of and Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Island Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. Port Blair for 1987-88 and Annual Report of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for 1987-88

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 1987-88

(ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7083/88]

(2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts [Placed in Library See No. LT-7084/88]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of the Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. for 1987-88

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I beg to lay on Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Modern Food Industries (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Modern Food Industries (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7085/88]

Notification under Major Port Trust Act, 1963 Review on the working and Annual Report of Dredging Corporation of India Ltd, New Delhi for 1987-88 Annual Administrative report of Mormugao Port Trust and Report on the working of Mormugao Port Trust for 1987-88 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): SIR, on behalf of Shri Rajesh Pilot, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:-

(i) G.S.R. 1006 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th October, 1988 approving the Cochin Port (Au-

thorisation of Pilots) Amendment Regulations, 1988.

- (ii) G.G.R. 1008 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th October, 1988 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Employees (Leave Travel Concession) Sixth Amendment Regulations, 1988.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 1009 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th October, 1988 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Employees' (General Provident Fund) Amendment Regulations, 1988. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7086/88]
- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hind and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Dredging Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Dredging Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7087/88]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hind and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust for the year 1987-88.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of

the Mormugao Port Trust for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7088/88]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1987-88.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7089/88]
- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963:-
- (a) (i) Annual Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust for the year 1987-88 together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7090/88]
 - (b) (i) Annual Accounts of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1987-88 together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library See No. LT 7091/88]
 - (c) (i) Annual Accounts of the Madras Port Trust for the year 1987-88 together with Audit report thereon.
 - (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Madras Port Trust for the year

1987-88. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-7092/88]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Dock Labour Board for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Kandla Dock Labour Board for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT 7093/88]

Annual Report and review on the working of International Airports Authority of India for 1987-88

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRISHIVRAJ V. PATIL): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Airports Authority of India for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts, under sub-section (4) of section 24 and sub-section (2) of section 25 of the International Airports Authority Act, 1971

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the International Airport Authority of India for the year 1987-88 [Placed in Library *See* No. LT 7094/88]

Notification under Customs Act, 1962

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K PANJA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions)

under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) S.O. 1136 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum laying down the revised rates of exchange for conversions of Australian Dollars and Pounds Sterling into Indian currency or vice-versa.
- (ii) G.S.R. 1145 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 1988 rescinding the Notification No. 186-Cus, dated the 1st December, 1964 prohibiting the Import into India of the periodical entitled 'Peking Review'.
- (iii) S.O. 1152 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th December, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum laying down the revised rate of exchange for conversion of Canadian Dollars into Indian currency or vice-versa.
- (iv) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback (Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1111 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 1988.
- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 1164 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing a concessional rate of duty of excise for 100 per cent export-oriented undertakings which are utilising their entire requirement of raw materials from indigenous sources, equivalent to the excise duty payable by units other than 100

per cent export-oriented undertakings plus an additional amount of 50 per cent of the basic duty leviable thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7095/88]

Annual Report and review on the working of Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis for 1987-1988

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Institute for Defence and Analysis, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7096/88]

Notification under Tamil Nadu Recognised Private Schools (Regulation) Act, Annual Report and review on the working of Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal for 1986-87 and Annual Report and review on the working of Indian Institute of Technology for 1987-88, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (L. P. SHAHI): I beg to lay on Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.O. Ms. No. 1071, Education (Hindi and English versions) published in Tamil Nadu Gazette dated the 14th June, 1988, is-

sued under section 56 of the Tamil Nadu Recognised Private Schools (Regulations) Act, 1973 read with Clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 30th January, 1988 issued by the President dated in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7097/88]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 1986-87 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 1986-87.

- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7098/88]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7099/88]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Motilal Nehru Regional Engineering College, Allahabad, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of

the Motilal Nehru Regional Engineering College, Allahabad, for the year 1987-88 [Placed in Library See No. LT-7100/88]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Technical Teachers' Training Institute, Bhopal, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Technical Teachers' Training Institute, Bhopal, for the year 1987-88 [Placed in Library See No. LT-7101/88]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, Kanpur, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, Kanpur, for the year 1987-88 [Placed in Library See No. LT-7102/88]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bal Bhavan Society India, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts

(ii) A statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Bal Bhavan Society India, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 [Placed in Library See No. LT-7103/88]

Indian Administrative Service (Appointment by Promotion) Amendment Regulations 1988; Annual Report of the Central Vigilance Commission for 1987, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) Sir, on behalf of Shri P Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Indian Administrative Service (Appointment by Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G S R 1115(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 1988 under subsection (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951 [Placed in Library See No. LT-7104/88]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the period from 1st January, 1987 to 31st December, 1987

(ii) A copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of the Commission's advice in certain cases mentioned in the Report. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7105/88]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indian Institute of Public

Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7106/88]

Annual Report and review on the working of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry Research Association for 1987-88 etc.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRID.L. BAITHA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Rafique Alam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) (i) Annual Report of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts [Placed in Library See No. LT-7107/88]

(ii) Annual Report of the Bombay, Textile Research Association, Bombay, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7108/88]

(iii) Annual Report of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7109/88]

(iv) Annual Report of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7110/88]

- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, Bombay Textile Research Association, Bombay,

South India Textile Research Association Coimbatore and Northern India Textile Research Association Ghaziabad, for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7110/88]

Review on the working and Annual Report of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. for 1987-88, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, on behalf of Shri R. Prabhu, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7111/88]

(ii) Annual Report of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Bombay, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Bombay, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7112/88]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Masras Fertil-

izers Limited, Madras, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Madras, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7113/88]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7114/88]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Cochin, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Cochin, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7115/88]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7116/88]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government on

the working of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7117/88]

- (h) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7118/88]

(i) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Projects and Development India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Annual Report of the Projects and Development India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7119/88]

Amendment to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly (Transit by Railway Allowances) Rules, 1987 and statement showing the action taken by Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers during various sessions of eighth Lok Sabha

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shriaji, if you are tired, showed I allow somebody else on your behalf?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI-MATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Thank you, Sir. I beg to lay on the Table:-

issued under section 14 of the Tamil Nadu Payment of Salaries Act, 1951 read with Clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 30th January, 1988 issued by the President in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7120/88]

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. A-46/88 (Hindi and English versions) published in Tamil Nadu Gazette dated the 16th March, 1988 regarding amendment to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly (Transit by Railway Allowances) Rules, 1987,

- (2) A copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Eighth Lok Sabha:-

(i) Statement No. XX-Fifth Session, 1986	[Placed in Library See No. LT-7121/88]
(ii) Statement No. XVII-Sixth Session, 1986	[Placed in Library See No. LT-7122/88]
(iii) Statement No. XIV-Eighth Session, 1987	[Placed in Library See No. LT-7123/88]
(iv) Statement No. X-II Part of Eighth Session, 1987	[Placed in Library See No. LT-7124/88]
(v) Statement No. IX-Ninth Session, 1988	[Placed in Library See No. LT-7125/88]
(vi) Statement No. VII—Tenth Session, 1988	[Placed in Library See No. LT-7126/88]
(vii) Statement No. III-Eleventh Session, 1988	[Placed in Library See No. LT-7127/88]

Review on the working of and annual report of Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation for 1985-88 and statement showing reasons for delay

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Gujarat Agro Industries

Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad, for the year 1985-86.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7128/88]
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11.13 1/2 hrs.

**PLANTATIONS LABOUR (AMENDMENT)
Bill****[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Plantations Labour Act, 1951.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Plantations Labour Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: I introduce the Bill.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: (Rajapur): Sir, today we have rationalised the Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Sure. At least once for a while change is there. It looks like a welcome change, without any fuss.

11.14 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377*[Translation]*

- (I) Need to allot separate funds for development of roads in hilly regions

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after 40 years of Independence transportation problem is still there in the hilly regions of the country. These areas lack all weather roads and the position with regard to shortage of bridges continues to be the same even now. Due to

lack of transport facilities, there is great difficulty in undertaking development works in these hilly regions. If communication facilities are continuously neglected in these region, the people of the region will only be dreaming of the 21st century. It is, therefore, necessary that the Central Government should provide additional funds separately according to the needs of the people in the region and direct the State Government to construct roads, bridges on priority basis in these regions. The State should inform the Central Government about the upto-date position of the works undertaken so far.

[English]

- (II) Need to enquire into the Recovery of less amount from drug companies in respect of Baralgone Ketone

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH (Azamgarh): It was indicated in the Affidavit filed before the High Court and the Supreme Court that the price of Baralgone Ketone charged in the formulations is Rs. 24, 735.38 per Kg but while making recovery in respect of this drug a lower price has been taken into consideration and as a result an amount of Rs. 3.40 crores upto 1983 has not been recovered. Set off percentage/commission has been given without any justification. Special team which made this assessment did not have any experts but consisted of persons having inadequate experience or background. A full-fledged enquiry should be held to uphold the published cause and the guilty punished.

- (III) Need to ensure that the Report of the Wage Board for Journalists and non-journalists is submitted by the due date

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Thousands of newspaper employees—both journalists and non-journalists—have been keenly awaiting the outcome of the Wage Boards headed by Justice Bachawat. For one reason or the other, the Wage Board has

not been able to finalise its recommendations. It was announced by the Prime Minister and the Labour Minister that the Board would submit its report by December 31, 1988. I wish to state on behalf of all journalist and non-journalist employees in the newspaper industry that this deadline should be adhered to. Otherwise it will amount to denying justice and fairplay to these employees who are generally underpaid and overworked. The tentative proposals announced by Justice Bachawat's panel in September were found to be inadequate and they disheartened employees. It should be ensured now that the emoluments of the those employees who have devoted the better part of their lives to the industry would get higher emoluments than the new entrants in the interests of natural justice. This does not mean that new entrants should not be paid adequately. It means that seniority should be respected.

[Translation]

- (iv) **Need to provide early adequate assistance to the people of Bihar affected by recent earthquake**

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give the following notice under Rule 377.

In the worst earthquake that hit the Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur and Monghyer districts of Bihar numerous houses collapsed in which thousands of people were killed and many were injured. The quake hit people are very grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister who visited the area and provided succour to the people. He has ordered the Central as well as State Governments to provide assistance liberally to these people. So far as relief is concerned, most of the people have not yet received it. No arrangement has yet been made to provide treatment to a number of injured persons. Though the Prime Minister has issued strict directions to provide all possible pro-

tection to quake hit people, grant in aid has not yet been given to thousands of people whose houses collapsed for constructing new houses. Due to bungling in relief work in Darbhanga district proper arrangement have not been made to provide relief to thousands of the victims.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to provide adequate relief and medicines to quake hit people and provide adequate funds to these people for constructing houses without delay.

[English]

- (v) **Need to Commission oil Terminal at Paradeep Port and set up L.P.G. bottling Plant at Balasore early**

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cut-tack): It is a matter of great concern that there has been an inordinate delay in the preparation of the feasibility report on an Oil terminal at Paradeep Port. The establishment of an Oil Refinery is very necessary in view of the erratic supply of petroleum products to Orissa from Haldia and Visakhapatnam. Though the supply and distribution of petroleum products from these refineries sometimes appear satisfactory, but Orissa had hard time last year in getting kerosene and cooking gas. As the Government of Orissa has banned the collection of fuel wood and felling of trees the rural people, particularly the Adivasis and Harijans are facing serious problem for want of kerosene. The State has no oil refinery and has therefore to depend on supplies from Haldia and Visakhapatnam. The proposed L.P.G. Bottling Plant at Balasore has not yet been commissioned though the State Government have allotted land to the Indian Oil Corporation. As such, I request the Minister to examine the reasons for the delay in setting up of the Bottling Plant at Balasore and to take early remedial measures. At the same time, I demand that an oil terminal be commissioned at Paradeep by the end of the Seventh Plan.

(vi) Need to ban use of flouride in tooth pastes

SHRI G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO (Sid-dipet): In recent years, there have been several reports and studies which demonstrate the harmful effects of flouride in tooth paste which if ingested in excess can cause gastro-intestinal problems like diarrhoea and ulceration, general muscle weakness, calcification of blood vessels and some other complications.

In 1986, the Ministry of Health appointed a Committee including ICMR representatives and health scientists to examine all aspects of flouride in tooth pastes. However, this report has not been acted upon so far. Flouride in tooth pastes is being promoted on facetious and untenable grounds that enamel of teeth becomes strong and cavity formation is prevented. Scientific knowledge shows that when adequate calcium is available, cavity formation is prevented.

It is, therefore, necessary that majority views and recommendations of the above Committee are made known and implemented at the earliest in keeping with the programme to control flourosis.

(vii) Need for reforms in Judicial System

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): One may not agree with Sheela Barse, a prominent social worker of Maharashtra who has observed in a detailed interview in a leading journal that the Supreme Court has become dysfunctional and it is not in a position to respond to the aspirations of the people, but we must take notice of certain situations that don't augur well for our judicial system.

The judicial system, as a whole, seems to be crumbling down under its backlog which continues to grow. The Supreme Court alone has as many as 1,80,000 cases pending before it at the moment. Sheela Barse could make public her plight in a

leading journal recently, but how can thousands of victims living in four corners of this country know one-another's plight and make us know what they suffer from. Barse brought to the notice of the Supreme Court the catastrophe that had befallen about 1,00,000 children who are languishing in jails of various States. She fought for a decade for justice, but, alas, no succour has been given to these luckless sons and daughters of free India;

I raise a broader question before the Nation—"Do we not deserve a judicial system which is in line with our social needs and initiate necessary reforms without delay?"

[Translation]

(viii) Need to construct wall on the sea coast in Gujarat to save the houses of fishermen from tidal waves

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMBEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gujarat has a long coast line and the sea waters often wash away the jhuggis of fisherman and other poor people living along the coast. The poor have to suffer a lot on this account.

In order to provide help to these poor fishermen and farmers and protect their lives, I request the Government to formulate an alround planned programme to safeguard the sea shore. A wall should be constructed along the sea shore so that tidal waves could be checked, otherwise these poor fishermen will lose their means of livelihood and their jhuggis and they will be gradually ruined.

[English]

(ix) Need to resume credit flow from NABARD to the farmers

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: An extraordinary difficulty has arisen for farmers from sudden stoppage of flow of credit from NABARD to many States in the country

such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra on the ground that the credit discipline has been vitiated by the cooperative institutions in those States. Stoppage of credit in the thick of agricultural season, namely, current Rabi season will cripple agricultural operations, in addition to causing untold hardship to farmers.

Both the short-term and long-term loan institutions in the cooperative sector in the State depend upon refinance from NABARD to carry out lending activity to farmers. Various State Governments tried to lessen the loan burden on farmers by extending certain concession. The RBI and the NABARD took a negative view of these concessions. What happened in Andhra Pradesh was that the State Government had only announced rebate of 5 1/2 per cent to farmers who repaid their loans in time. This was only an incentive to farmers for prompt repayment and cannot be treated as a negative influence on the credit environment. Even without going into merits of the issue, nobody can dispute the proposition that adequate notice must be given to the institutions regarding the consequences of alleged contravention of lending policies.

I therefore, plead that the credit flow from NABARD to farmers of Andhra Pradesh and other States be resumed immediately pending formulation of proper norms for maintaining healthy credit climate. Your remarks, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I had already made the remarks.

[English]

I was much faster than you even.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, for the first time he is making a reasonable submission. For the first time he said a sensible thing.

MR. SPEAKER: It appears that everybody has become sensible to-day.

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Jaipalji, your 377 is peculiar.

[Translation]

(x) Need to increase the honorarium of Nambarda in Punjab

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even today the work of collecting revenue from the farmers in 12,000 villages in Punjab and depositing the same in Government exchequer is being done in the traditional way by the Nambardars, appointed for the purpose. They are getting the same amount of remuneration, what they used to get decades ago. Keeping in view the rising prices the Nambardas had requested the administration to increase their emoluments. The authorities in Punjab assured that an eight member committee, will be constituted for the purpose, and it will be asked to make suitable recommendations. The committee was to submit its report by 30th September 1988. But it is regretted that no concrete steps have been taken in this direction even after the expiry of that date. The Nambardars have demanded that they should be paid at least Rs. 300 per month as honorarium in view of the rising prices. I request the Government to accept their demand immediately and implement the order accordingly.

Sir, you had also been a Nambardar.

MR. SPEAKER: I had never been a Nambardar but of course I was a Sarpanch. I am a democrat.

[English]

(xi) Need to set up a Development Board for economically and socially backward areas

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): Special Development Board, as per the provisions of the Article 371 of our Constitution should be set up for the eco-

[Sh. Jagannath Pattnaik]

nomically and socially backward areas like Kalahandi, in the State of Orissa and Chhatisgarh area in Madhya Pradesh to remove regional imbalance which is the main thrust of socialism.

(xii) Need to set up a T.V. Transmitter at Bhadrak (Orissa)

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, Bhadrak is a fast growing industrial town in Orissa having a population of more than one lakh. It is a major sub-divisional headquarter mostly inhabited by Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and backward class people.

Bhadrak is 100 kms. and 80 kms. away from Cuttack and Balasore respectively where TV transmitting facilities are available presently. Because of the distance, neither Cuttack nor the 100 power transmitter at Balasore is catering to the needs of Bhadrak. Because of this, the public resentment and discontentment has been mounting up rapidly.

I am taking this opportunity to urge upon the Information and Broadcasting Minister through the House to give urgent attention to the matter.

At least, a low power transmitter should be established at Bhadrak during this financial year 1988-89.

I am sure, this transmitter will not only be beneficial to the people of Bhadrak but also it will fulfil the long standing aspiration of more than 6 lakh people of nearby adjoining areas.

As a result, a national link also can be established with a vast number of backward and underdeveloped people in this corner of the country.

(xiii) Need to issue postage stamps in the memory of Shahid Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Kumar Chaki

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, Shahid Khudiram Bose and Chaki Prafulla Kumar alias Dinesh Chandra Ray were born during 1889. Both were eminent freedom fighters. This is their birth centenary year. I suggest that the Government should issue a postal stamp to commemorate the birth centenary of these great sons of India.

(xiv) Need to impress upon the Government of New Zealand not to entertain the English Cricket team in view of certain players having South African Connection

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHRY (Katwa): Sir, on December 7, 1988, the very day the Indian Parliamentarians were observing the 40th Anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and rededicating themselves in particular to the fight against apartheid, the supporters of apartheid were throwing a new challenge. As though to mock at the people and Government of India and all those valiant fighters against apartheid, the New Zealand Cricket Council (NZCC) has invited the English Cricket team, to tour the country. This act on the part of the NZCC is most insulting and outrageous, especially since the New Zealand Cricket team is currently touring India.

It may be pointed out that "The Prevention of Apartheid in Sports Bill, 1988" introduced in the Rajya Sabha on December 7 described apartheid as "a system of institutionalised racial segregation and discrimination for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons, and systematically oppressing them such as that pursued by South Africa." Also the 40th Session of the UN General Assembly had approved and adopted the International Convention against Apartheid in sports and had appealed to member-

states to secure a comprehensive boycott of the racist regime of South Africa by the international community in respect of sports. Those who violate that convention have also to be boycotted.

India must forthrightly meet the challenge thrown by the supporters of apartheid. I, therefore, call upon the Union Government to take necessary action immediately. The Government of India must also sternly warn the Government of New Zealand that if it does not intervene to stop the English team which includes players with South African connection from touring New Zealand, it would be seriously jeopardising the holding of the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland.

[Translation]

- (xv) **Need to check smuggling on the borders of Nepal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh via Gandak river**

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, districts Gopalganj and East Champaran in Bihar and district Deoria in Uttar Pradesh are the border districts adjoining Nepal. Smugglers on a large scale operate from Nepal via Gandak river which flows upto Sonapur crossing the borders of all the above districts. Illegal weapons and other smuggled item are brought to India via this Gandak river on a large scale. There is no proper arrangement with the Customs Department to check smuggling in the Burhi Gandak as a result of which the law and order situation has been deteriorating day by day in Gopalganj and all the above districts. It is mainly due to lack of motor boats and steamers with the customs that smuggling via Gandak river is continuing unchecked.

Therefore, through this august House I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance to provide required number of motor boats and steamers to the Custom Department and thus make proper arrangements

for checking large scale smuggling which takes place via Gandak river along the border districts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh bordering Nepal.

- (xvi) **Need to provide financial assistance to the State Government for the repair of roads in Himachal Pradesh damaged due to heavy rains**

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people's economic condition in the State of Himachal Pradesh depends on the production of potato, apple and other fruits like peach, pear, apricot and vegetables like tomato, cauli flower etc. The roads that have been constructed to facilitate smooth traffic of goods have been washed away by rains this year. The State Government is not in a position to repair these roads. As a result of that people cannot transport vegetables and fruit to nearby market places. I, therefore, request the Central Government to provide adequate funds to repair these roads.

Apart from the above, I also request the Central Government to take over those industrial units in the State which have been closed or running in loss, so as to open avenues of employment for the unemployed youth. Punjab is the adjoining State of Himachal Pradesh. I therefore, want that in order to maintain law and order the Central Government should provide adequate funds to the State of Himachal Pradesh for raising two police battalions and bear all its expenses.

- (xvii) **Need to have a broad gauge railway line from Gandhi Dham to Bhuj in Gujarat**

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR (Kutch): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a broad gauge line upto Gandhi Dham in Kutch which is my Constituency. Bhuj is the main city of the

[Smt. Usha Thakkar]

Kutch district Kutch is a very big district. It constitutes two third part of Gujarat. There are many minerals deposits lying under the Kutch. Therefore, it is very essential to provide broadgauge line from Gandhi Dham to Bhuj.

Therefore, I would submit in this House that work for laying railway line from Gandhi Dham to Bhuj in my constituency should be taken up immediately.

(xviii) **Need to start a train from Fatuha to Bodh Gaya in Bihar**

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, development of railway has its own significance in every country of the world. Bihar is a backward State in every respect. Its position is slightly better than Nagaland State only. Main reason for this is that a meagre amount of the total revenue received by the Centre, is allocated for the Bihar State, due to which backwardness of Bihar goes on increasing. Consequently, terrorist organisations are coming up very fast in the State. There was a separate narrow gauge line from Bodh Gaya to Fatuha in Patna district of Bihar which was owned by Martinburn. After nationalisation, the Government has stopped its operation. This train was quite necessary for the area by which lakhs of people used to travel. The fare from Patna to Gaya by private buses is Rs. 20/- at present. It clearly indicates the amount of inconvenience being caused to the people. Therefore, I urge the Government that a train should be started from Fatuha to Bodh Gaya.

[English]

(xix) **Need to find out a way to check the entry of wild animals in Salboni and Binapur area of West Bengal**

SHRI MATILAL HANSDA (Jhargram):

Last year, a herd of wild elephants numbering nearly 60 descended on the plains of Midnapur and Bankura and damaged paddy crops, houses and killed seven people. They come down from the Dalma Hills of Bihar and stayed in Salboni and Binapur areas for nearly three months. After much efforts and persuasion, they returned to the Dalma Hills. But because of wanton destruction of forests and lack of food, this year too, nearly 70 elephants have come to Salboni and Binapur area and are destroying paddy crops. The villagers have become panic stricken as they suffered much in the previous year. The compensation they received is not worth mentioning. It is agreed that wild life should be preserved. Hence it will be better if representatives of the State Governments of West Bengal and Bihar meet together and find out a remedy. The Union Government, specially the Environment Ministry, should take up the matter in all seriousness.

[Translation]

(xx) **Need to include 'Rajbhar' caste in the list of Scheduled Castes**

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Salem-pur): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw Government's attention towards 'Rajbhar' caste through you.

The Government of India is striving hard to bring the Harijans and other depressed classes of Uttar Pradesh at par with others in the society by providing reservation facilities to them. The Government is encouraging them on the path of progress and prosperity by providing reservation in service and education etc. to them. This work of the Government of India is very commendable for weaker sections of the society. In this connection, I submit to the Government of India that 'Rajbhar' caste is also one of the neglected castes of the society. Uttar Pradesh has also sent a recommendation in this respect to the Centre that the way small castes like Harijan, Mushar, Adivasi etc. are

being brought at par with others in the society by providing reservation to them, Rajbhar Caste should also be included in the list of Scheduled Castes so that they may also enjoy the aforesaid facilities.

I urge upon the Government that steps should be taken as early as possible to include 'Rajbhar' caste in the list of Scheduled Castes so that they may also avail facility of reservation etc. In future and their backwardness could be removed and they may also occupy proper place alongwith others in the society.

[English]

(xxl) **Need to provide funds to Orissa for the treatment of patients affected by mental disorders**

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Sir, the Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) under the disability project of the World Health Organisation, in their survey, have pointed out that 2 per cent of the total population in the State of Orissa is afflicted by serious mental disorders. If the situation is allowed to go unchecked, the percentage would increase to 30 per cent by 2000 A.D. which would be one crore i.e. one-third of the total population of the State. Another mental expert of the Mental Health Institution under S.C.B. Medical College, Orissa, has pointed out that the existing infrastructural facilities for the treatment of mental patients in the existing three Medical College Hospitals in the State are awfully inadequate. Only 18,000 mentally sick patients would be accommodated annually for treatment and the rest 90 per cent of patients go uncared for, especially the mental patients of rural areas.

Due to constraints of resources with the State Government, only 0.2 per cent of the Health Budget of the State is spent for the

mental health care programme.

I would, therefore, request the Union Government to come in a big way to help the State to meet this challenge.

11.44 hrs.

NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, be taken into consideration.

Sir, as the hon. Members are aware, India has been facing the problem of transit traffic in illicit drugs which has been escalating in recent times. The spill-over from such traffic has been causing problems of abuse and addiction. There have been indications that this trend has created an illicit demand for drugs and that this may lead to increased diversion of opium from legitimate growing areas of opium poppy.

Government being concerned with the developing drug situation have taken a number of legislative, administrative and preventive measures which have resulted in checking the transit traffic to a considerable extent. However, increased internal drug traffic, diversion of opium from licit growing areas and attempts of illicit manufacture of drugs within the country threaten to undermine the effects of the counter measures taken. Further, drug traffickers often succeed in obtaining bail on minor technical

[Sh. A.K. Panja]

grounds enabling them to continue their illicit activities.

Keeping in mind the magnitude of the threat from drug trafficking from the Golden Crescent region comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran and the Golden Triangle region comprising Burma, Thailand and Laos and having regard to the internal situation, the Prime Minister gave a 14 point directive on April 4, 1988 as a new initiative to combat drug trafficking and drug abuse. The Prime Minister also constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee under the Home Minister to oversee and coordinate working of different Ministries and steps taken to intensify the fight against drug abuse and trafficking. The Cabinet Sub-Committee felt the need for enactment of a preventive detention law for drug traffickers for supplementing the deterrent penal provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. Accordingly, the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 was enacted and brought into force in August, 1988. The Cabinet Sub-Committee also recommended that the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 may be suitably amended *inter alia* to provide for:—

- (i) Making drug offences non-bailable;
- (ii) forfeiture of property of drug traffickers;
- (iii) Procedure for pre-trial disposal of seized drugs;
- (iv) not applying any privilege or remission to the punishments awarded under the Act.
- (v) Provision for death penalty for the serious drug offences;

(vi) enhancement of punishment for officers abetting drug trafficking and for others incharge of custody of patients (addicts, under-trial prisoners/prisoners) etc.

(vii) to exempt drug addicts, once in their life time who volunteer for de-addiction treatment.

Sir, the present Bill before the House, not only seeks to encompass the aforesaid areas but also seeks to remove certain difficulties faced in the enforcement of the Parent Act in the last three years and strengthen the Act further. The suggestions made by the Hon'ble Members during the course of debate in the House on the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Bill, 1988, have also been given due consideration.

Sir, it is the experience of the law enforcement agencies throughout the world that unless the ill-gotten wealth generated by drug and drug-related crimes is attacked by tracing, freezing and forfeiture of such assets, no amount of law enforcement efforts would make any tangible dent on illicit drug situation. Attack on the ill-gotten wealth of the drug traffickers would be like going for the jugular vein of their nefarious activities.

A new convention which, *inter alia*, provides for tracing, identification, freezing, seizure and forfeiture of properties related to drug crimes, has been, for the last three years, under negotiation and the same is going to be adopted by the Conference of the United Nations now being held in Vienna from 25th November to 20th December, 1988.

The present Bill contains a separate chapter, Chapter VA on forfeiture of property derived from or used in illicit traffic. This chapter, *inter alia*, prohibits holding of illegally acquired property which has been

defined as property acquired from illicit traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It also provides for identifying, seizure or freezing of illegally acquired property. It further provides for setting up of offices of Competent Authority to deal with all aspects relating to forfeiture; to appoint officers and Administrators for the Management of properties seized or forfeited and an Appellate Tribunal for such property.

The other salient features of the Amendment Bill are as follows:—

(i) to provide for the constitution of a fund for control of drug abuse and its governing body. The Fund is to be financed by such amounts as may be provided by the Parliament, the sale proceeds of any property forfeited under the Act and any grants that may be made by any person or institution;

(ii) to provide for death penalty on second conviction in respect of specified offences involving specified quantities of certain drugs;

(iii) to provide that no sentence awarded under the Act, other than section 27, should be suspended, remitted or commuted;

(iv) to provide for constitution of Special Courts;

(v) to provide that every offence punishable under this Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable;

(vi) to provide immunity from prosecution to the addicts volunteering for treatment for deaddiction or detoxification once in their life time.

(vii) to bring certain substances which are neither narcotic drugs nor psychotropic substances but are used in the manufacture or production of these drugs or substances, under the ambit of the Act. Such controlled

substances would be regulated by issue of order;

(viii) violation of the provisions relating to the controlled substances would be liable for punishment with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 10 years and fine which may extend to Rs. 1 lakh;

(ix) financing illicit traffic and harbouring drug offenders would be offences liable to punishment at the same level as per drug traffic offences.

Illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances transcends all national jurisdictions. In order to evolve effective action against drug abuse, illicit production and trafficking, it is therefore necessary to develop bilateral, regional and international instruments of cooperation. Keeping this in mind, India has entered into Bilateral Agreements, with Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Further, the fight against drug trafficking and prevention of drug abuse has been identified as an area of cooperation under the aegis of SAARC. India is lending its support and participating very actively in various international Fora like the Sessions of the U.N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Sessions of the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, etc. India has sent a strong Delegation to the Conference of the United Nations meeting in Vienna to finalise the International Convention against illicit traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances. In fact, the Hon. Members may be glad to know that India has been unanimously elected as Chairman of the Drafting Committee for this Convention.

Sir, our Government firmly believes that the scourge of drug abuse should be wiped out and that any complacency in the fight against drug trafficking would adversely affect the well being of the society. This August House has been lending its full sup-

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port to the Government in its fight against the drug menace and I am sure that this legislation also would meet with the full approval of the House.

I now commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, be taken into consideration."

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO (Siddipet): Mr. Speaker Sir, this Bill has been brought in the light of the difficulties experienced by the officials while enforcing the original law, that is, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. There were some loopholes and the officials could not effectively control the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs. In our country there has been abundant flow of narcotic drugs from other countries.

Actually the original law is not an old one. It was recently passed by our Hon. House. It was passed in 1985. But immediately within three years the Minister could find out some difficulties and some loopholes in the original law.

11.55 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Now he has come with some amendments. With these new provisions the law will become more effective. The main object of this amendment is to forfeit the property which was being made out of illegal smuggling of narcotic drugs. Further it also constitutes a national fund for controlling the abuse of drugs. Like that there are four-five other points. All these provisions will make the law more effective and the illegal trafficking of

these drugs will be controlled in our society. These narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are abundantly used by school and college students and the unemployed youth. They are abundantly getting these drugs in the market whereas certain drugs which are being used in the hospitals like morphia are not available in the hospitals. Outside morphia is abundantly available for the purpose of addiction.

The use of these drugs by the college students has spoiled their health and career and in-turn they are spoiling the society. In order to control the well being of the society actually this law must have very rigid provisions. It will help an individual to go on the right path. For the last 5-10 years the seizures of drugs in our country have increased. In 1983 the seizure of heroin was only 139 kg. whereas in 1987 it has gone up to 2,000 kg. Similarly in respect of hashish and charas in 1983 the seizure was only 6073 kg whereas in 1987 it has gone up to 15,000 kg. Likewise for other drugs also the seizures are going up day by day. Secondly the gold, which is a precious metal in our country, is parallelly accompanying these narcotic drugs. The major route for smuggling of gold and drugs in our country continues to be Afghanistan, Pakistan, Punjab and London. Three out of ten cases both for gold and drugs smuggled and detected in India involve either a Pakistani national or a Punjabi national.

In January the Customs officials intercepted a truck/van from Ludhiana and recovered 175 kg of heroin and 39 kg of opium. Similarly in February the DRI officials arrested Mr. Mohamed Din, a Pakistani national in Delhi and recovered a huge amount of narcotics equivalent to 79 gold biscuits. In February in Delhi one Mr. Neeraj Samadhi, an Afghan refugee, was arrested and the officials recovered 237 kg of hashish. In May our BSF jawans had a shoot-out with a gang of smugglers in the Khemkaran sector of

Indo-Pak border.

12.00 hrs.

The smugglers escaped but left behind 150 kgs. of heroin of West Asian origin. The transportation of narcotics and psychotropic substances is increasing every year in our country. I think it will come down with the effective implementation of this law. But whatever law is enacted here, it is not being followed strictly by the officials concerned. There is no devotion among the officials. Because of this reason, the flow of such drugs is going up and up every day. Now I hope the law will become more effective and the flow of drugs will be controlled. The younger generation will not be addicted and spoiled. The social conditions, in general, will improve.

SHRI AJAYMUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1988. It is a matter of compliment that the Government has brought this Amendment Bill to amend and make the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 more effective and more substantial by way of incorporating very deterrent punishments.

If I am not wrong, today in the Indian-sub-continent, which consists of India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon and Bangladesh, the biggest nuisance, so far as illegal trafficking is concerned, is not gold. It is the narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In our country, a large number of younger generation is getting addicted not only in big cities like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras but even in small townships and playing havoc with their health and with their other educational pursuits. I personally had brought this point as early as 1985. Although I fully support this Amendment Bill because it does make the 1985 Act more effective, yet I have certain suggestions. The hon. Minister is

aware, the Government of India is aware that if you take Delhi, there are seventy to eighty thousand drug-addicts in the capital of the country. You can well imagine how much the number will increase if we take the entire population of drug-addicts of the country. When the 1985 Act was brought in this august House as a Bill, it was written in the body of that Bill that the Health Ministry would be advised to establish more and more deaddiction centres. I am sorry to say that this has not yet been done. I am also sorry to say that in this Amendment Bill, it has not been mentioned even at one place what the Government plans to do for deaddiction of the younger generation in particular, who are getting addicted. Drug trafficking is a problem of Finance Ministry, External Affairs Ministry and Home Ministry. But what happens after the drugs are brought in the country and consumed by our men should be a more serious concern of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Health. It is no fault of the younger people who fall a prey to these addictions. There are small schools, middle schools and primary schools and outside those schools icecream is sold mixed with brown sugar. The children think that they are getting addicted to the ice-cream, but they are, in fact, getting addicted to the kick which they get from the brown sugar. The ice-cream vendors who sit outside the schools provide this to the children.

As I said, nothing is being done so far as the Social Welfare Ministry and the Health Minister are concerned. I personally urge upon the hon. Minister to consider seriously and immediately to put a mandatory clause in this Bill that the Health Ministry will come up with a budgetary allotment, with a definite project of having at least one de-addiction centre run by the Government of India in each State capital and at least 5-6 Government de-addiction centres in big metropolitan cities of Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. There are some de-addiction centres, but they are there only in name; they

[Sh. Ajay Mushran]

are not working. I know that for certain. There are certain unofficial societies which are running de-addiction centres in Delhi. I know it because I am associated with an organization called *Avinash*. We are getting a grant from the United Nations to the run of Rs.3 to Rs. 4 crores annually; but not a penny has been given to *Avinash*. The money has been distributed to those unofficially run de-addiction centres who are doing no de-addiction work; only they are the blue-eyed boys of the Social Welfare Ministry bureaucrats.

Sir, it is an inter-country problem like the drug trafficking is an inter-country problem. The de-addiction centres being non-effective is an inter-Ministry problem and this must be sorted out by the hon. Minister who is piloting this Bill in this august House.

I would urge upon the hon. Minister that as a pilot scheme in Delhi at least, the Government of India should start 3-4 de-addiction centres in each parliamentary constituency of this metropolitan city to look after the addicts. Out of seventy or eighty thousand addicts, at least twenty thousands are students.

As it is, we have lowered the age for voting from 21 years to 18 years. A large number of people are addicts. Tomorrow when the elections take place, if these addicts do not get these psychotropic substances, or narcotic drugs for two days and if they are given the same on the third day, they would vote for the candidate whose agent has given them the drugs. It is a nuisance; it is going to affect the body-politic; it is eating away the younger generations of our community. We have got to look upon it not only as a matter of deterrent punishment, which I not only whole-heartedly support, but I compliment the Minister and the Government for having taken this step.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan has given drug trafficking as her number one problem. You can imagine the seriousness and the largeness at which these drug traffickers are operating. I would urge upon the Minister to be gracious enough. The Social Welfare and the Health Ministry aspects should be incorporated. I would have given an amendment, but I am not going to give, because I will have to withdraw the same. If you yourself do that, you will be making it more effective so far as de-addiction is concerned. Sir, we have an Hon. Member in this House who knows very well as to what havoc a drug addict child can bring in the family and how much money has to be spent on the de-addiction treatment. Even if the boy gets de-addicted, he again falls a prey to the drugs and again has to be de-addicted. The M.P. whom I am talking about is the father of the addicted child. Sir, five or six M.Ps are directly connected with this problem, but we have not heard even a word from these social welfare centres where de-addiction is supposed to be done. These agencies and these unofficial bodies, who are dealing with the de-addiction, have not been given any recognition or financial support by the Ministry.

So far as punishment is concerned, the Bill proposes that the second-time offender will be given a death penalty. Anybody who is dealing in the drug trafficking and is found carrying more than 1 Kg of these narcotic drugs or the psychotropic drugs should be given the death punishment. This death punishment should not become a laughing stock through the wrangles of judiciary and law. Strict punishment must be given like in any other country where this drug is making its impact. We must ensure that the deterrent punishment must be awarded to the offenders.

With these words, I compliment the Hon. Minister for having brought this Bill to make the 1984 Act more deterrent and effec-

tive. I request that he will bring an amendment to ensure that the de-addiction centres which are at the moment run by the social bodies or unofficial bodies will be given help so that the society as a whole contributes to the letter and spirit of this Bill and the Act of 1985

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosaera): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill. This bill has been brought to guide the youth to proceed on right lines. Narcotic drugs are very harmful for the youth. Narcotic drugs are affecting so adversely that crimes in the society are increasing, it is essential to take measure to check them. Strict action should be taken against those who produce and smuggle these drugs. You should find out the people engaged in smuggling activities. Big companies who owe excise duty to the tune of millions of rupees, import narcotic drugs worth crores of rupees and make the future of our children in our country dark. You have just stated that those persons who indulge in illegal activities, their property will be sealed and they can also be sentenced to imprisonment upto 10 years. We hope that you will definitely enforce the provision of punishment made by you. But all your laws are not taken seriously. Laws are enacted but they are not implemented. The bureaucrats have vested interests in not implementing the laws. Many companies have been found indulging in the trade of narcotic drugs and you have also initiated action against them. Hon. Minister has stated in the House that 14 companies have been found indulging in this trade in Delhi. But you have cancelled their licenses for two, four or seven days only. This is no punishment. Provision of deterrent punishment should be made but your bureaucracy will make this Bill ineffective. You have made a provision of imprisonment in this Bill but attention

should be paid towards implementation aspect. Provision of deterrent punishment should be incorporated in the Bill.

I also want to state that the companies which have been found indulging in this trade in Delhi and which manufacture narcotic drugs owing to which people have died, they died in Safderjung Hospital they include the name of the company which manufactured Greater Pharma which caused death. Similarly, there is an Associated Pharma, it is fully surgical. The drugs which have caused death has been manufactured by Subhash Trading Company, Glaxo is also manufacturing narcotic drugs, it was caught but action has not yet been taken against the company. Plam Pharmaceutical Company, Civil Drugs Laboratories, Alpine Industries, all of them are Delhi based companies, which have been manufacturing narcotic drugs. I have got the reply given in the House that licenses of these companies were cancelled for two to four days and they have started manufacturing the drugs again. You do enact laws but they should be enforced strictly. Maximum deterrent punishment should be awarded to these people as provided in the Act and Government should mention the activities of the officials as well so that they may implement the law properly.

We have been continuously listening about narcotic drugs to the effect that sometime 2000 Kg. heroin and Ganja had been seized but you do not take action against them. These narcotic drugs have penetrated upto village level and young boys of small farmers and labourer families are consuming them. Consequently, they become victim of serious diseases. They lose senses and keep on consuming drugs.

I congratulate you that you have brought forward the Bill and have made categorical provision of strict punishment but those who indulge in wrong deeds, must be punished. You should catch the big

[Sh. Ram Bhagat Paswan]

smugglers and big companies and their factories should be sealed and strict action should be taken against them. Raids should be conducted on 14 companies named by me. Still they maintain huge stock of narcotic drugs which are causing death to the people. You should apprehend them and punish them so that use of narcotic drugs can be checked. With these words, I thank you.

[English]

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan). Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Bill because this would make the law more stringent against the dealers in narcotic drugs.

The drug addiction was not that rampant in early 80s but from the seizure of the narcotic drugs in the recent years, it is evident that the drug abuse has assumed a very alarming proportion. It affects a cross section of people of our society, the labourers, the hawkers, the government employees and especially the students.

Sir, last year I attended a meeting where the ex-Chief Minister of Manipur, Mr. Hokishe Sema, himself observed that a large number of young men of his State have become drug addicts, and, therefore, steps should be taken so that this menace can be stopped.

Sir, it has been estimated that more than 7 lakh drug addicts are there in India out of which the Bombay and Delhi have 1 lakh each. In Delhi, there are about 10,000 child smack addicts and most of them are street urchins and racketeers. We find that especially the students have become the victims of this drug trafficking. I have seen many young brilliant students have ruined their lives, while staying in the college or university hostels during the course of their study by becoming drug addicts. Therefore this

menace should be fought with zeal.

Sir, we find that there is a close linkage between drug addiction and crime. One-third of the petty robberies committed in Delhi are committed by the drug addicts and road accidents and industrial accidents are often caused due to this drug addiction. Often, drug addicts even murder people because they desperately need money to purchase narcotic drugs.

India has become a large conduit of international drug trafficking because India is contiguous to the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle, Sir, it is known that in the Golden Triangle, that is, in the region bordering Thailand, Laos and Burma, first under the direct encouragement and patronage of the CIA, Kuomintang Irregulars started production and processing of poppy. But now, in recent years, it is the golden Crescent, that is the tribal areas bordering Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, which has come to the forefront. It is said that 12,000 KM stretch of land produces poppy and it is processed in that area. Two-thirds of this region is in Pakistan. It has been found that Pakistan not only supplies arms to our terrorists, but it also supplies drugs because 80 per cent of the narcotic drugs seized in 1986 came from Pakistan. Since there is SAARC and since we are also having bilateral talks with Pakistan, the Minister of external Affairs should take measures and see that this drug trafficking is stopped.

Just now I have mentioned that India has become a conduit for large scale drug trafficking. The Interpol has given some statistics in this regard. In the year 1987, out of 7.7 tonnes of narcotic drugs seized, the drugs seized from India are of the order of 2.7 tonnes. Hence, stringent measures should be taken against these drug traffickers. I agree with my previous speakers that though petty criminals who are simple couriers are often brought to book, the real crimi-

nals, the white collared criminals, the dons of the underworld and the heads of the mafia gangs are seldom touched because they are the owners of blackmoney. They now invest heavily in the building industry and in the film industry and they have become very respectable and even elite of the society. Therefore, the police do not touch them and politicians too do not touch them. Since they are the real criminals, I request the Minister to see that the long arm of the police reaches these so called respectable people. These criminals must be brought to book and thrown behind the bars.

I would also argue that there should be as many special courts as possible to deal with these cases because as the hon. Minister knows, justice delayed is justice denied. What is required very urgently is summary and speedy trial. As there are provisions in the Bill for special courts, as many special courts as possible should be set up to deal with these offenders.

I would also request the Minister to establish de-addiction centres in all the State Capitals and if possible in the district headquarters also because this drug abuse has become very rampant. Especially, our younger generation is found to be the victims of drug abuse. Therefore, de-addiction centres or clinics should be set up in the district headquarters and also at the same time there should be creation of awareness. I am happy that the Television is now dealing with this topic; yet there should be an all-out media offensive so that the people should become aware. It is because abuse is so much rampant. In Calcutta the *Phuckkawalla* used to mix brown sugar when they sell foodstuffs to young kiddies. When the Government put a ban on selling of *phuckhas* to school children, then there were agitations. People came forward and shouted slogans against the Government for banning the sale of *phuckkas*.

Therefore, what is required is an all-out effort which should be made so that appropriate action be taken against these drug manufacturers. I also agree with my previous speakers that many firms which are producing medicines are in fact dealing in narcotic drugs and as a result, people become drug addicts. Therefore, stringent measures should be taken against those firms.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the drug trafficking problem is more serious than what the Government or we people are thinking. This problem is more acute in Delhi as compared to other places. We are between the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle. The countries of Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan come under the Golden Crescent. Our hon. friend has said it rightly that cocaine is openly cultivated in Pakistan on thousands of acres of land and the same situation exists in Afghanistan as well. All these narcotics are sent to other countries via Delhi. I had mentioned earlier also that in Delhi, especially in South Delhi, some people suddenly become very rich, acquire 5 to 10 imported cars each, and built huge mansions. It is being whispered that these people are dealing in narcotics, but no one can dare to harm them. The Government is aware of their activities, at least the Police is fully aware of it. I will relate an incident from my personal experience. The South Delhi colony in which I am residing, was raided one day suddenly and there was a big ganja haul. The Police had already informed the owner of that house from where ganja was recovered about this raid a day in advance and when this farce took place on the next day, it was stated that some one had deliberately kept narcotics there. It was stated that this was the work of a servant who was employed in that house but was dismissed later and he had done it out of sheer enmity.

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

They are respectable people, why should they deal in narcotic drugs? In this way, they went scot free very easily. In order to liberate themselves from the sins which they had committed, they had 'Bhagwati Jagran' and the entire matter was over. I want to submit that this is not the sole example but you can find thousands of such examples of people turning multi-millionaires and billionaires overnight. I want to submit that enough powers had been vested in the Government under the 1985 Act and if Government had made use of those powers, it would have not been necessary to bring forward this Bill. I had submitted earlier also that you may frame any number of laws but unless those are implemented, they will have little meaning. One of the provisions in this Bill is that in case of second offence death penalty will be awarded. In many South-East Asian countries provisions for death penalty exist in the case of first offence itself. I want to submit that the provision of death penalty in case of second offence may be implemented strictly and next year we should be informed of the number of there people who were awarded death penalty. Although people are indulging in the trafficking of narcotics and drugs openly without any fear and becoming millionaires and billionaires by going scot free. None can harm them because they are not ordinary citizens but have very strong connections. If the Government possess the will, this provision should be got implemented.

There is a provision for a fine of Rs. 1 lakh in this Bill. I want to know as to what difference will this amount make to the people who are dealing in drugs? It is being shown daily on T.V. that hashish worth crores of rupees has been seized. I think that if the Government wants to save this country and its youth, then such a severe and deterrent punishment should be awarded to the people indulging in drug trafficking as proves

exemplary for others to desist from doing the same. Provisions should be made for the confiscation of the entire property of those who are found involved in drug trafficking. There is a provision for property seizure in this Bill but what happens is that the person whose property is to be seized gets prior information about it and he transfers all his assets so that when his property is to be seized, it is found that he has only liabilities and no assets. Therefore, this issue should be considered very seriously. I would like to make a small point that you should get the 1985 Act implemented. In this connection it is requested that the deeds of the drug-traffickers who have been punished should be shown on T.V. Television is a very powerful medium of mass communication today. It should be utilised for showing the faces of the drug-traffickers and the punishment which they are awarded. This will control this problem to a considerable extent.

Many of our hon. friends have submitted as to what extent drug abuse is effecting our youth. I have seen people dying with my own eyes. The young students studying in colleges and universities tell lies about their drug-addiction. I asked many such students whether they take drugs or not and they replied that they have never taken drugs. But we can know about their drug addiction by their actions. I have seen them slowly suffocating to death and ruination of their families.

China was known as the land of opium-addicts before the Second World war. The entire generation of that country was ruined. China was called the land of opium-addicts but what happened subsequently? China, through the opium trade brought the entire western world under its sphere of influence. However, finally some leaders emerged who banned opium trade and we can see as to how big a nation China has become today.

I would like to submit one more point.

You have formulated a scheme for setting up a fund for the relief of victims of drug abuse. The money will be provided by the Central Government. I want to submit that drug-addiction is spreading rapidly among the industrial workers. This not only harms the industrial workers but also the industrialists because this menace adversely affects production. Therefore, a levy should be imposed on the industrialists and the money so collected should be deposited into this fund. This will enable Government to control drug-addiction.

Finally, I would submit that drug addiction is a very serious problem and it should be controlled in time.

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): Sir, of course, I welcome the steps taken by the Government and its bringing this bill to provide for more stringent punishment for drug abuse. It is a very big problem which now our country is also facing in the matter of drug abuse, in the universities, factories and other vulnerable area.

I would like to make some suggestions in this regard. There should be a serious effort to identify the places where this menace of drug addicts and drug business is going on. Some effort has been made. Even in this bill, or in the original Act there are sufficient safeguards and provisions to identify the areas and taking drastic steps to prevent the drug menace. In this bill itself, with regard to one of the provisions, I would like to point out one particularly about the wealth to be forfeited. How are you going to detect the wealth that is earned through this? Unless there is some provision or a general law in this regard making a person liable to account about his wealth, it cannot be done. If a person has acquired some wealth through business transactions of narcotic trade, he can very well say that he has got it

from elsewhere. He can account for it in different areas. Therefore, it is the duty of the person to declare his wealth. Unless wealth is declared, how can it be tracked down to him. This can only be done against a person who is convicted and then also in proving that the wealth had been acquired by him. What are the provisions for that? These provisions will only result in publicity, nothing else in implementation. It will not help. Because, you will not be able to find out if the wealth has generated from the trade of narcotics. Therefore, there should be a provision to bring out the wealth. Will the Government study the new class which has come up with this wealth? Mr. Rajhans had pointed out that people are coming up with big buildings, mansions, and new ventures. From where do they get that money. How do they get the money? Could we make a study about these things? Unless we make such earnest efforts in this line, this may not be possible to find out

Also, another point I would like to point out. That is about the involvement of voluntary agencies in making the public aware of the drug menace. We have failed in that. We have not made any efforts to involve the voluntary agencies in that. Of course, with regard to the prohibition, mostly the trend has been set by the voluntary agencies in the matter, by the *Madya Virodh Samiti* and all those people who are educating the people. But there are difficulties and therefore more efforts are to be made. And, apart from the law and our implementing machinery there should be voluntary agencies promoted by the Government for this purpose and sufficient help should be provided for such agencies and consciousness should be built up everywhere. They should create such a situation in the minds of the people and it should be easy to build up consciousness awareness, in the minds of the people, that it seriously affects them. More than that, along with the stringent methods which we adopt, the education and the knowledge of

[Sh. Thampan Thomas]

this menace and the drastic consequences and degeneration of the society in a large measure, have to be made known to the public. Whatever facilities are available like the media and other things which we get in this respect will have to be used for this purpose.

Also, just like the Western countries our nation has also become a little more involved in this drug habit. Recently, when I participated in the Ten Nation Conference of the ILO in Djakarta some of these problems were discussed, especially about the Asian countries. They have made certain recommendations. One of the recommendations which was made to treat the drug addicts is: they are only the victims, sympathise with them and give opportunities for them to rehabilitate and see that they are rehabilitated. These recommendations have been given by the ILO. That is, to consider them as handicapped and provide them employment. Sir, we have to take two different approaches in this respect. One, the people who are doing trafficking in it and doing business and making money on this, and the other poor victims. We have to cross examine them. We will have to bring the victims back to the society and at the same time the offender will have to be punished deterrently. Sir, even Malaysia, a small country, has given a capital punishment. I welcome it. Capital punishment is a good move. But even more than that, more drastic punishment should be given. For example, Sobhraj is taking shelter in India. If he goes back to Thailand, he will be hanged, because there is a case against him. International criminals take shelter under our law. Once he becomes accused in one case somewhere he can postpone the trial of his case by taking shelter in this country; whereas if he goes back to the place where he had committed the offence, he will be hanged. Therefore, I suggest that drastic steps will have to be

taken in this regard.

Sir, I have to point out certain important things about the forest area especially where there is heavy rain. Opium, Ganja and such plants are being illegally grown in a large forest area. There is some involvement of certain sections of the people, that has to be identified and destroyed *in toto*. For this purpose, there should be delegation of powers to various other agencies. I am only suggesting that law enforcing agencies will have to be correlated with these things and a task force should be formed. An earnest effort should be made to see that this provision of the law is implemented.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA (Motihari): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 1985 as introduced by the Hon. Minister in this House, deserves to be welcomed.

I want to submit that the intention behind this bill is a noble one. You may observe all over the country and the world that the number of people using narcotic drugs is going on increasing and it is giving rise to a unique problem. This problem has spread widely in the world and is common to every country whether rich, poor, developed or semi-developed. However, in our poor country, this problem has taken a very horrible shape and is increasing rapidly. I think that if the provisions of the act which came into force in 1985 for the control of the use of narcotics had been implemented strictly and effectively this menace would have been controlled to a considerable extent and the smuggling of smack, heroin etc. would have been curbed. It seems to me that this Act was not implemented with due strictness. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he would assure the House that the amendment which has been brought now in 1989,

will be implemented strictly and the purpose for which this amending bill has been brought to this House will actually be achieved? Why does smuggling take place? There are many reasons behind it. The main reason is that it is the easiest way to make money and grab power. This is no secret that there are big smuggling gangs in the country today who are making millions of rupees in this business. As such it does not matter but it matters when it spreads like a poison in a society engulfing all and particularly the youth who are the future of the nation but are using drugs to the maximum extent.

The parents send their children to colleges and universities in the capital with high expectations but they fall prey to such dirty habits. In the beginning drugs are consumed like anything else but subsequently a habit is formed and it becomes impossible to get rid of it.

Under the provisions of the existing Act stringent rules were to be framed to control drug trafficking and hospitals opened at various places for treatment of children, youth and old people who have fallen prey to drug-addiction and who want to get rid of this bad habit. But such hospitals have not yet started functioning and wherever they are functioning, the affected people are not aware of them. The social service institutions and voluntary organisations should be entrusted with this task to ensure the fulfillment of this aim.

I hail from an area called Rasaul which is adjacent to Nepal. We see thousands of trucks full of ganja, hashish, heroin, smack, etc. are allowed to enter into our country after accepting some bribe. In order to meet this situation, a Bill was brought in 1985 and now more provisions are being made but what steps is the Government going to take to prevent what is happening before our eyes? You have made very good provisions.

You are going to establish a fund for controlling drug addiction which is welcome but I want to know as to what steps are going to be taken for controlling this type of drug trafficking? You have made provisions for a fine of Rs 1 Lakh in the case of an offence committed for the first time and death penalty for the offence committed for the second time. You have provided for the seizure of property which is also welcome, but I want to submit that those people who are getting rich over night by ruining the future of our younger generation should be awarded death penalty in the case of the very first offence. The search for these people should be conducted honestly and without any bias. Various Haji Mastans have been enjoying the patronage of the political leaders. They should also be arrested. What steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to round up such people and the members of the international gangs which are very powerful and have their stronghold and influence in the countries like America. What steps the Government propose to take to counter their influence.

Besides all these provisions, the Government should make use of the media-T.V. and radio and make it more effective. Power connections should also be provided in the villages so that the people of rural areas may be educated by the television programmes and may get varied information. The Block Development Officers and the village level workers may be entrusted with the job of publicising it in every village to apprise the people of the places where they can get treatment for deaddiction. It has been said:—

Kanak Kanak te sau guni,
madakta adhikay
Ya khawat baurai hein,
wa pawat bauray.

Drugs fetch 50 times more prices than gold. It has also been reported that by the begin-

[Smt. Prabhawati Gupta]

ning of the 21st century, there will be about 15 million drug addicts in India. To control this situation, strict laws are needed. I do not get ample time to go through all the reports and I simply go on speaking about whatever come to my mind. The Act which was made by the Government in 1985, is very good and now the Government is going to make further amendments in it. However, it should be kept in mind that the officers working in the Department of Education, Health and Border Security Forces always work in collusion with each other as a result of which all the crimes take place. The Government shall have to take stringent measures to apprehend them. The Bill introduced by the Government deserves welcome and we want that it should be implemented in letter and spirit.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cut-tack): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill. Day in and day out, many case of drug trafficking and drug abuse have been coming to light, specially in metropolitan areas of the country. The present estimate shows that as many as 15 million people would become drug addicts by 21st century. The drug addicts are found among the higher strata as well as lower strata including youth and children. What makes us feel very sad today is that drugs addiction has caught on the youth, particularly among the students community in urban areas. They start first with some curiosity and then it becomes a fashion and then habit. All these youth affected by drugs are not only losing all the vitality but drug addiction has posed a grave threat to future generation.

Another thing is, almost every day, there is some news of illegal import or export

into and out of the country. Gopalan Committee was also very much concerned about this and suggested enactment of single law to control drugs, which was expected to plug all the loopholes in the existing laws so that no drug peddler could escape from the net of this law. The report of the Committee says:

"The situation is likely to deteriorate and get out of hand if adequate measures are not adopted to curb addiction."

We are very much concerned about drug trade or drug trafficking. We know the rules of demand and supply, namely where there is demand, there is supply. But there is another rule, namely, rule of Bay's law which holds that supply generates its own demand and the greater the supply, the higher the demand. Hence this is very much applicable to the drug abuse and every step is to be taken to curb the supply of drugs. Illicit drug trafficking is concomitant with drug abuses and it has become a major international problem that cuts across political and geographical barriers. India which was regarded as a mere transit point is no longer just like that because there is evidence that a large part of the processing of opium into different stages of heroin is now taking place in this country. There is an increasing American and Italian mafia connection with the principal Indian organisers of the trade. As such, in order to control the menace, there should be closer international cooperation between specialised national agencies and all-out efforts by the police. One of the hon. Members has said that people are going for this drug trafficking because of the profit. The profits involved in this trade are so large that it is a lucrative business and this drug fetches 50 times more price than gold. The corruption related to drugs gets rapidly institutionalised with the police forces. That is why, we see this situation at present. It seems no effective counter machinery has been created to control this menace. What

we find is Pakistan has all the time been complaining that India is not taking enough interest to curb this menace and hence the problem is so great in the world. But what we find today is, almost all the heroin comes through Pakistan and has its origin in Afghanistan and North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. We also know that terrorists have been found involved in drug trafficking and peddling. They do it because they get easy money which they require to finance their activities.

Europeans have some grouse against India about drug smuggling. But the money collected by drug smugglers is freely invested either in the legal or illegal activities by them in the European countries. The Law Enforcement Agencies in these European countries are unable to do anything in these cases due to the prevailing laws on commercial confidentiality or banking secrecy. A great deal of discussion took place last March in New Delhi Meet of Drug Enforcement Agencies from most European countries and the Indian sub-continent. We would like to know what is the outcome of the Conference. Is there any concrete suggestion to curb this drug trafficking? We know that even if we pass legislation and make proposals for stringent punishment, much is required for the implementation machinery to put it into practice.

It is also seen that whatever is the official production of opium, a lot more is grown illegally. Officially, India grew 995 tonnes of opium per annum from 3,359 hectares under poppy cultivation in U.P. Rajasthan and M.P. A lot more is grown illegally. But, UP alone accounts for 45,000 KG of excess cultivation.

We are very glad that you are going to check this illicit traffic in drugs through this piece of legislation. We have so.

An envisaged, the setting up of special

courts by the Central Government should be made immediately. Not only this, all the infrastructure on this should be set up immediately.

The constitution of the National Fund for control of Drug Abuse is a welcome feature. Stringent punishment is also suggested for violation of the Act.

There is now an urgent need to formulate an integrated and comprehensive prevention policy which would envisage coordinated efforts of anti-narcotics, intelligence, revenue, police and medical agencies. Besides controlling drug trafficking, our main aim is to remove drug abuse for which a three-pronged strategy is necessary.

Firstly, the focus should be on social, economic, political, cultural and medical factors that breed drug habits.

Secondly, preventive approach should be directed at early detection of drug habit and social devious behaviour in a collaborative effort involving the community, family, police and voluntary agencies.

Lastly, there should be a programme for detoxication, rehabilitation and re-integration of the addicts.

Hence along with such a legislation, there is the need to fight the malaise at the social level; specially by taking up schemes for de-addicting the victims. For this purpose, the Social Welfare and Health Departments have to be coordinated so that effective action can be taken. Preventive measures are necessary. At the same time, computers are also necessary to detect the smugglers and illegal operators in drugs and narcotics. Modernisation of equipments to deal with drug peddling is necessary. The infrastructure for the detection and treatment of drug addicts which is at a rudimentary stage in the country has to be strengthened.

[Translation]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to welcome and support this Bill. Although many points have been covered in this Bill, my submission is especially regarding its section 59. The Government has made a provision of punishment under section 59 for those officers who have failed to discharge their duties. I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that smuggling of drugs, smack or hashish in our country is not possible without the connivance of the officers and the politicians at some or the other level. While saying so, I have in view the gang wars of Bombay in which one to five persons are being killed every day in broad day light.

13.00 hrs.

These gangsters or criminals have such sophisticated automatic weapons with them as are not there available with our ordinary police force. People living in posh colonies are murdered in broad day light. Such news are being reported almost everyday in the magazines and newspapers published from Bombay that the smugglers take help of the police force to eliminate their opponents and the police or other officers kill them in false encounters. Therefore, I would like to mention that whereas the Government have made a provision under section 59 for action against those officers who have been held guilty of having supported the drug criminals in some or the other way with a fine of Rs. one lakh. A provision should also be made in this Bill to seize entire property of such officers.

As such our colleagues have made a number of points regarding this Bill which include de-addiction, counselling and rehabilitation. This is also right that the Government has not set up rehabilitation Centres in the required number but I wholly support it that not only the Government agencies but

even the voluntary organisations can do an exemplary work to check this malady. It is out misfortune that today only such of the working voluntary agencies get protection, patronage and assistance as have the wife of some Minister, secretary or capitalist or else the residents of posh colonies as their members who have had no experience of others' woes and agonies. Such ladies visit the slum colonies in their airconditioned cars for a few hours to distribute some medicines, sweets, clothes etc. among the poor of those slums and earn popularity for running a big social institute of the society. Their photographs are published in the newspapers. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out to the Government through you that as long as such crime and corruption goes on taking place in our country and the voluntary organisations are run in the name of a particular individual and the people in this field go on getting encouragement, no revolutionary change can take place in our country. This has to be done away with. Instead the agencies which have their field of operation in the slums under unhygienic conditions where the housewives earn their livelihood with their sweat and hard work and spend their whole life there, are not given any importance. In their welfare activities, the Government should seek the participation of all those people who have been living in those very areas and do not cherish great aspirations of a luxurious bungalow but stay there upto their last breath of life. Unless the Government takes such steps, they would not be able to bring an end to it. The children or students affected by this curse do get cured by means of counselling or treatment for psychotropic substances provided in those Centres but no post care is taken of them to see how they are passing their lives. The Government will be able to root out this menace in an effective manner only when they have a scheme to engage such children on some job who have been given treatment for psychotropic substance or they should be employed in small scale industry or

should be given some technical training in an institute. The Government should set up some school or college for this purpose so that they may keep themselves busy there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the provision of death sentence in the Bill for the person who is an accomplice in the crime. I would rather submit that if the Government has evidence and is in the position to substantiate it, then not only that person alone but all those people who have been functioning with the help of their own couriers, should be sentenced to death. Then alone will these people feel scared of such activities and this problem will come to an end.

I also congratulate the Government for keeping the provision of making these offences cognizable under this Act. My best wishes are with the Government and I hope that when India enters the 21st century, she would get rid of this bane and we will be able to stand to welcome a new dawn.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): I suggest, subject to everybody's convenience, that lunch hour be dispensed with so that we can complete this important Bill. This has to be passed here and sent to Rajya Sabha.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think, it is the consensus of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to express my views on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1985. The first thing about this Amend-

ment Bill is that it has rightly been moved here. The Government have reviewed the position since passing of the aforesaid Bill and found that they have been unable to prevent illicit traffic in these drugs and therefore decided to amend the Bill. The provision of capital punishment is appreciable. You are well aware that these drugs are not confined to Delhi, towns and urban areas but these drugs have reached rural areas and jhuggi-jhonpris also. Therefore, it is a very serious matter. So you are well aware with the results of drug-addicts in China when number of drug-addicts increased manifold. When people will start taking these drugs in bulk, then the country will definitely go to dogs. The young students taking to drugs at the university level will become officers, politicians and soldiers tomorrow, then how will they be able to run the administration of the country. Working class is in the grip of drug-addiction which is most harmful for the country. I want to tell you that production in China declined to a great extent due to increased drug-addiction. When a person becomes a drug-addict, his working capacity would naturally decrease. Similarly, if officers become drug-addicts, their working capacity will also decrease. They also work for the country as politicians work for the country. Therefore, all these things should be kept in view. This menace of drug-addiction in spreading throughout the country which is very harmful.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Cocoa plants are being planted in forests in the country with the connivance of forest conservation officers. I am saying this with full responsibility as I had seen the hemp plant containing 20 kg of hemp inside the compound of police station of Jahanabad. The soldiers smoke hemp. Once I read in a newspaper that heroin was recovered from the brief-case of an hon. Member in a raid conducted in his house. In the first instance I took it for a filmy heroine while later on I came to know that a very costly narcotic drug-substance has

[Sh. Ramashray Prasad Singh]

been recovered.

A medicine named Sanjivni Sura is also a narcotic-drug and it is manufactured by mixing brown sugar in it. This has reached the rural areas also. If Government is concerned with it, it should get the thing inquired into the state of affairs in Delhi University. The Government supplied it to the drug-manufacturers but they do not utilise the entire quantity and they sell the remaining quantity as they like. The officers receiving a salary of Rs. 10 and 5 thousand per month are involved in this matter but there is no check in their case. The illicit traffic in narcotic drugs should have been declined after the law was enacted in 1985 and you should reply to this point. These laws will not serve any purpose. Illicit traffic in narcotic drugs will not be curbed. You will not know as to how many persons have been awarded punishment under this law and what quantity of psychotropic substances has been recovered and the cost thereof. You should explain here all these things. Merely formulating laws in this respect is not going to help. The people have heard that there is a provision of capital punishment. It has been stated that the goods will be seized and money earned therefrom would be recovered but I want to know as to who is earning money? It is not only the smugglers but also drug-manufacturers who are earning money through it. Today drug-manufacturers are becoming multi-millionaire and these people are in both Houses, so whom you will apprehend? The sons of higher officers indulge in smuggling. Even my son can be a smuggler. As long as they have money power, you cannot apprehend them. Moreover, you cannot apply pick and choose method to punish them. It is not going to serve any purpose.

You should remember the case of China. A number of people in China became

drug-addicts and its consequences were very bad. People had to carry with them a dose of opium to get a cup of tea. Our country is also reaching the same stage. I want to tell you that you should enforce laws honestly. But they are not enforced sincerely. The Cause of all the evils in our country is political protection. If these people are not given political protection, our country can become heaven. The role of politicians is the most deplorable who encourage this illicit trade and earn money through it. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion.

There is much more than academic value in this discussion. This discussion follows closely on the heels of the discussion on the prevention of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the last session. I had suggested a few steps like public destruction of drugs seized. I welcome this Bill because that has been incorporated here very prominently. I also welcome and support this Bill for another thing that a provision has been made for a fund. On this, I shall be able to say a few words.

My State is gripped by this Golden Triangle. I don't know what is golden in this triangle except that this is killing human lives at the cost of the civilisation itself. Mizoram and Manipur which is my State are directly the victims of the Golden Triangle. Sometimes in the beginning of the current Session I put the question to the hon. Minister as to what is the quantity of seizures and what has been the manner of their disposal? Further how many officials and now many of those involved in these seizures have been punished? It was pointed out that the seizures were very nominal.

Sir, it is a well-known fact that huge quantities of these narcotics are smuggled into India but if you ask a BSF officer he will say that it is only coming in trickles and it will not have much effect. What is important is that these things are coming in huge quantity. The same should be seized and all the people concerned should be punished. These quantities are sufficient to spoil the career of the young people. So we would like to know what is being done in that sensitive border where that golden triangle is directly acting and killing the future of so many young boys and girls.

Another important point that I would like to make is the involvement of pharmacists. In the sensitive areas some of them are acting as agents. They are selling these drugs under the very nose of excise department and the concerned authorities.

Now, Sir, the official who is to make the seizure what is his transaction value. Supposing a smuggler is carrying a quantity of drugs worth Rs. 10 lakhs and he comes across a constable or a junior officer who is prepared to share the booty to save his prestige on the one hand and to save the illegal goods on the other hand he would be prepared to even offer half of the value of the illegal goods. So something has to be done is respect of the people who are on duty so that they do not fall into such a trap.

Further I would like to point out that certain medicines contain narcotic content and many young boys and girls in my area know that if they take a certain quantity of those medicines they will get the necessary kick. Simple drugs like phencidal and phenargan are consumed in the border areas by students in big quantities. They are using it to such an extent that some pharmacists have been asked not to sell these medicines without proper subscription.

Coming to the Bill proper there is a

clause for authorising and constitution of the fund and its governing body. The fund is welcome but the governing body is going to be headed by a Chairman of the rank of Additional Secretary. I do not know how effective it will be. When an advisory committee is headed by an officer of the rank below that of full Secretary, what could be its impact on the Government? So, I would like to suggest that its chairman should be either of the rank of a Judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court or he should at least be of the rank of full Secretary to the Government. Only then, this governing body will have some impact. Besides about all these penal measures or the disposal of the seized goods in public places after making inventories and all that, we would like to see that there is a coordinated approach to the whole thing, number one, concerning the criminals and, number two, concerning the victims all over the country.

A suggestion has been made that in the district headquarters, State capitals, metropolitan cities and big cities-where some kind of sophistication takes place - there should be some rehabilitation centres. So far as, we don't see any effective steps being taken in this respect. It is said that the fund, that is being constituted, will be utilised for the control of illicit traffic of these drugs. After all, the Government has got its own routine measures for the control of illicit traffic through its regular departments. When the fund is collected from the sale of the seized goods and forfeited properties, we would like to see that the fund is utilised exclusively and significantly for the rehabilitation measures which are yet to be taken up. So, in this respect, I would like to repeat that the fund should be exclusively used for rehabilitation measures and also for the purpose of educating the people on a mass scale.

In the last session, when I spoke on the prevention of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, I said that the

[Sh. N. Tombi Singh]

propaganda machinery, like TV, Radio and other media, should be utilised more effectively. I do not mean to say that what is being done is bad. What I meant to say is that it is not enough. The TV and the Radio should have more programmes just as we have intensive programmes on family welfare. On the one hand, some people become rich overnight while, on the other hand our children in the universities and colleges, wherever sophistication takes place, have been ruined and our future is threatened. This kind of a coordinated approach and proper use of our funds should be there. While referring to the constitution of the fund and its governing body Mr. Panja, in your absence, I had suggested that the Chairman should be an officer, at least, of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: My colleague has already noted this point.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: With these words, I conclude and support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1988 moved in the House.

I have gone through its all clauses and I am very happy that very important changes have been made in this Bill. The legislation which was passed in 1985 has completely been changed and I want to thank the hon. Minister for it. All the drawbacks which were there in the earlier Bill have been removed to a great extent. A number of cases pertaining to heroin had been pending in the courts and people involved in these cases were being acquitted and were being released on technical grounds. Earlier they used to be re-

leased on bail on technical grounds but now a very strict law with a provision of Rs. 1 lakh fine and 10 years imprisonment has been made. Earlier the culprits used to be acquitted because of flaw in the law. I have minutely studied this law and have found that to a great extent these loopholes have been removed and this offence has been made a cognizable non-bailable offence which was not so earlier. I do not understand as to why this provision was not made in the earlier Bill. Every person can follow it but you depend on officers and you move the Bill as prepared by those officers. It has become a trend that such an important legislation is not referred to the Select Committee. Had this been done, such situation would not have arisen. Now this important legislation has been amended and has been given a good shape.

I may, however, say that opium is not produced in our area, Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur at all but it is consumed by the people of my areas in large quantity and it is nowhere consumed so much. Today such a situation has developed that if somebody dies and someone goes to his house, opium will be offered to him and opium is offered even at marriage occasions. The use of opium is considered to be very auspicious. Even compromise is made between two enemies only after consuming opium. Such situation has developed there. It has become a problem for us as to how to get rid of this social evil. Today our law is not enforced properly. I was talking to the Members who come from Kota and Jhalawar. Our farmers were asking as to why opium is cultivated? Because when no opium will be cultivated, there will be no question of its consumption. I was trying to know about it. Licences are given for cultivating opium and permission is granted for cultivation of opium in some area and opium thus produced is purchased by the Government but then how it reaches our area? It is possible that opium might have been cultivated unauthorisedly or after supplying fixed quantity to the Government the

remaining surplus quantity might have been sold in black market. Thus opium comes to our area in huge quantity due to unauthorised cultivation and surplus production. So, the steps should be taken to check it. Opium is produced particularly in Madhya Pradesh. I would suggested that opium cultivation should be reduced to minimum. Its cultivation should be confined to the quantity required for manufacturing medicines only. Arrangements should be made to see that opium produced unauthorisedly should not be allowed to move out of the area in which it is produced. Either the Central Government can control it or the State Governments. Loopholes in this regard should be plugged and arrangements should be made to streamline the whole process

In this regard, I may say that some voluntary organisations are indulging in making the people drug addict in our area and Welfare Department helps them. Whatever there may be the help of Welfare Department, I want to request you that all District and Panchayat hospitals and dispensaries in my area should be provided with de-addiction facilities in respect of opium addicts. Doctors should be appointed there particularly to treat drug addicts and all the medicines should be provided there. Central Government should provide all help in this regard and this process should continue for ever. Whatever help is provided by any voluntary organisation is a different thing but this process should go on continuously in every hospital and dispensary.

Secondly, smuggling activities are going on in our border areas on large scale. The police are not having sufficient means, jeeps etc to have complete control over these activities. Although the performance of police and B.S.F. has been good but the performance of Central Excise Department has been very poor in the matter of checking these activities. I have got this information confirmed. For streamlining the system, the

hon. Minister should remove corrupt officials working in the customs department of the Central Government. If officials are short of facilities, the Government should make these available to them. Smuggling and drug trafficking are going on simultaneously and our country is the transit point for the drugs coming from Pakistan and Afghanistan, but the traffickers surprisingly go scot free. Situation has come to such a pause that even after seizure of heroin and charas from traffickers, they are not apprehended by the officials. Such cases have come to light in Jaisalmer and Barmer, in which traffickers have deliberately not been apprehended. Such action of law enforcing agency shows lack on their part in implementing the laws, though the most vital part of any law is its effective implementation. So only dedicated officers should be posted in these areas. An advisory committee under the chairmanship of an Additional Secretary has been set up. In this connection, I suggest that the proposed advisory committee be headed by the Minister in place of an additional secretary and some of the experienced Members of Parliament may also be associated with it as members. Only then this advisory committee will achieve any success. I request fighting the drug abuse with all our might at our command as all over the world menace of drug addiction, especially among the students, is assuming alarming proportions. I also want to State that the terrorists are also involved in drug trafficking and the Government should check this unholy alliance.

With these words, I support the Bill under consideration.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill whole-heartedly. I think, there is none in the House who has opposed the Bill. But, Sir, one thing that strikes my mind is that very recently we passed a Bill in this very House

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

wherein the preventive detention powder has been given to the Government. I would like to know since the day this Bill has been passed, how many people have been taken into custody under its provision.

This is very serious menace and I am sure nobody has any sympathy for these drug traffickers and drug paddlers who are out to ruin the society and our young generation. Even I would not hesitate to say that they are murderers. This is a process of slow poisoning. Selling of drugs is just like selling death. While participating in the discussion on the Preventive Detention Bill, we demanded capital punishment for these people. I congratulate the Government and the Minister that they have now come out with that provision in this Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A K PANJA): May I just intervene for a minute. The Hon. Member has asked a very pertinent question in the beginning of his speech and which is there in the minds of all the people. We have issued 260 detention orders and have detained 221 persons up to December 12, since the ordinance was passed.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI. I am happy that the Hon. Minister has readily responded to my query by giving some figures.

Now, Sir, the problem is that under this or that plea many of the offenders go scot-free. They wanted to make it cognizable, non-bailable and so on. I think the House do not grudge giving such powers to the Government. The House is quite anxious that this growing menace should be checked effectively at the earliest possible opportunity. Surely, you all know that India did not

figure anywhere in the drug trafficking map of the world till the early Eighties. But then this menace started in India too and it has now assumed a dangerous proportion inasmuch as India is not only a transit point, but it is also a very big user of drugs. The number of drug-addicted youth is increasing alarmingly and as we all know, once addiction begins, one does not know where it ends. Of course, during these years, India has been taking a lot of initiative to curb this problem. Our Prime Minister has got to be congratulated for the 14 Point initiative in this direction. It is again followed by the appointment of a Cabinet Sub-Committee. In the light of the recommendations of this Cabinet Sub-Committee only, this Bill has come before this House.

I would like to mention here that it is not our problem alone. We cannot think of it in isolation. It is an international problem and an international phenomenon. It has got to be tackled both inside the country and outside, keeping the global perspective in view. While introducing the Bill, the Minister made a reference to a global conference which is going on in Vienna. We are happy to note that India is elected as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, if I understood him correctly. In this way, India is taking initiative not only inside the country but outside also. We wish the Government God speed and we wish them well in this direction.

Now, I come to some suggestions. I am conscious of the time limit that you have fixed and I will be very brief. As I mentioned earlier, India is not only a transit point, but also a big user of these drugs. The most alarming part of it is that according to a report, 80 per cent of heroin, one of the most dangerous narcotic drugs, is now routed through India. Interpol statistics revealed that out of 7.7 tons of heroin seized in 1987 in Europe and America, 2.7 tons came from India!

Pakistan is now the main source of smuggled drugs in India. The newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan is also conscious of the evil of this drug menace and she is giving very serious thought to fight this menace. This is a very happy development.

There is a provision in the Bill for the creation of a 'fund'. We welcome it and most of the amount should be spent on massive propaganda against drugs through the media of TV, films etc. so that more and more awareness is created among the people and in particular among our youth. This fund will also be used to organise special training courses for police to counter the drug problem. The most important part of it is the rehabilitation aspect. Quite a substantial amount should be spent on rehabilitation. Here, I find that only officials are to be associated in the Board of Conveners and in the various Sub-Committees. I feel that it would be better if non-officials, eminent social workers and Members of Parliament are also included in these committees. This has got to be a people's movement. The entire young generation is going to be ruined unless this menace is effectively checked and for this purpose, we have got to build up a mass movement. Naturally, it cannot be done effectively by associating only the officials. Therefore I suggest that non-officials, voluntary organisations and social workers should also be associated.

I find that capital punishment is provided for a second time offence. We do welcome it. I have grave doubt whether it can be implemented. With a heavy heart I have to mention here about the Indira Gandhi murder case. What happened to it? Our lamented Prime Minister openly in the broad day light was murdered by her own bodyguards. What is happening in the Supreme Court? What is happening in the High Court? It is a matter of shame that some lawyers are playing havoc. I don't want to name them. We are making provisions but whether those

provisions will be really implemented, that has to be seen. It requires necessary modification. I do not thereby interfere in the working of judiciary - independence of judiciary. The necessary modification of judiciary is the first measure which we should take.

SHRI D.B. PATIL (Kolaba): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am of the opinion as all of you are that the evil of addiction of drugs should be fought and eradicated at any cost. For this purpose, the hon. Minister has brought forward this amending Bill. It is a very serious problem, not only a national problem but also an international problem, as the hon. Minister has mentioned in his introductory speech. It is so serious that if it is not combated properly, by the end of this century in our country the number of addicts will reach astronomical height. According to one survey, it is likely to go up to 15 million. Now-a-days a grave situation is existing in our country. We have to fight out this evil. When this House enacted this Act in 1985, wide powers were given to the enforcement authorities for fighting out this evil. But so far as its enforcement is concerned - even some Members from the Treasury Benches have also complained - it has not been enforced properly. Even the offences are taking place in broad day light. But nothing has been done by the enforcement authority. It is a very serious matter. I would like to suggest that the Government should deal with heavy hand the corruption that is there in the enforcement agencies. Hon. Members from the Treasury benches have complained that corruption is there. We have also now experienced that there is corruption. They should be dealt with very seriously.

The hon. Minister had stated that the Government is in contact with Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and other countries regarding this. We are having discussions with them.

I would like to draw the attention of the

[Sh. D.B. Patil]

hon. Minister and the Government as well that certain countries, like Europe, North America and Latin America, have come together and had organised IDEC Conference. I think, about 13 countries have participated in that conference. The Conference - International Drug Enforcement Conference - was held in March, 1988. It is because of the initiative of this Conference, much has been done which was not done before

Therefore, I would say that this evil has to be combated very seriously. We have read in all newspapers that so far as smuggling of drugs and other things are concerned, the Air-hostesses, the pilots and other higher officials are also involved in it. So far as our experience goes, nothing can be done to combat this evil. The hon. Minister has stated while introducing the Bill and also it has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that in spite of the fact that there are strict provisions - deterrent provisions - in the Act, because of some lacunae, the offenders are released on bail. I do not know whether the lacunae are there in the law or in the investigation. There are lacunae in the law also. I am going to point out in my Amendments as to what are those lacunae. Even there are lacunae in the investigation also. It is because of these lacunae the offenders are getting bails easily even though it is not contemplated that the offenders should get bail easily under the provisions of the Act. It would have been much better if the hon. Minister had given the figures as to what has been done till now by the Bureau which had been establish for this purpose. No figures are given here. It means no satisfactory work has been done till now. A special Bureau was established in 1986.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Which figures do you want?

SHRI D.B. PATIL: Figures regarding

the arrests, punishment and other things, since the establishment of the Bureau. You can give them during your reply.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: I can give them straightaway.

SHRI D.B. PATIL: No; you can give them during your reply.

Then about the problem of de-addiction. Once a person of the young generation is addicted to drugs, it is not easy to de-addict him. Special measures have to be taken so far as this problem is concerned. Though it is not for this Department to de-addict the addicts, the Department should take special steps to see that the addicts are de-addicted; and for that purpose whatever funds are necessary should be made available by it, i.e. for the rehabilitation and de-addiction or the addicts to this particular evil

It has been provided in the Act that there should be the disposal of the property attached in the presence of the Police officers. I will say more about this while I move my amendments. Some differentiation has been made about illegally acquired property, and the property. The loophole which is kept is that so far as illegally-acquired property concerned, it has been defined and a provision has been made as to how to identify the illegally-acquired property, and how to forfeit it. But so far as the property is concerned, there is no provision made so far as its identification and forfeiture.

Taking all these things into account I would like to support the Bill; but at the same time, I would inform the Government that simply providing for a deterrent punishment is not going to help fight or eradicate this evil. The implementation of the provisions in the Act is very important, and Government should take serious steps in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY (Hazaribagh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. In order to save the future generations from the evils of drug abuse, all the hon. Members of this House have with one voice demanded to make the laws most stringent. I hope that with the passing of this Bill, the hands of the administration will further get strengthened in combating drug menace effectively. I fail to understand the rationale of the apprehensions of some of the hon. Members that the number of drug addicts will go up by ten times despite taking of strong measures like this. To my views, their apprehension is unfounded. Can't the Government ensure effective implementation of the laws to save future generations from falling prey to the drugs in circulation. To my mind, arming the Government with stringent laws alone can need hardly be an effective tool to combat this evil. For this, we need will power to do. These psychotherapeutic substances and narcotics are known to us since the dawn of civilisation. But earlier it was used for medicinal purpose only, but now it is being abused. Our country is fast moving towards dooms, as the pharmaceutical companies are nowadays producing poison in the name of medicines by moving on the vestige of the developed countries. The people engaged in such trade are a slur on our society. They are mushrooming and they have also earned respect for themselves in the society. If the Government itself is not in a position to find out the identity of such pharmaceutical companies, how can the common man find out their names. So the Government should monitor their functioning to remove the doubts in the minds of the public that is the reason why some of the members, despite bringing a good measure here have opined in the House that the number of drug addicts would increase ten times more within a period of ten years. So I request the hon. Minister to have a serious thought to this problem and find solution to it.

We should forget what happened in the past, we should make our efforts *de novo* to reduce the number of drug addicts. We will be able to bring their number down by ten times or more, instead of going the number up by ten times as apprehended some members. If we are able to reiterate this before public then the people will be greatly relieved. Both Shri Tombi Singh and Shri Virbhi Chander Jain have put forward a number of suggestions including taking of strict action against those officials involved in drug trafficking. As some hon. Member alleged a nexus between custom officials and drug traffickers. Media makes loud announcements about seizure of narcotic drugs, but the knowledgeable persons say that these seizures are only a small tip of the iceberg... whosoever is apprehended is also released. Therefore, despite the best of intentions we are helpless. Some system should be evolved to check abhorrent dealings of these persons and saving the people from such evils. We can never be successful unless the law enforcing agencies implement the laws faithfully. So the suggestion to create public awareness is welcome. Steps should be taken to involve the masses in effective implementation of the laws. In this regard, I agree to the suggestions given by the hon. Members and I would also like to make suggestion that de-addiction camps be organised not only in big cities such as Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta only but in far-flung areas also for creating public awareness and we should not be satisfied merely by setting up courts alone. For removing this evil from the society, views of the general public and the people representatives should be invited before formulating any scheme. Only then maximum welfare of society could be provided.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this amending Bill. First of all, I want to congratulate the hon. Minister through you for introducing such a Bill in the House.

[Sh. Mohd. Ayub Khan]

Going through the Bill it seems that the Bill has been introduced after an indepth study and taking into account various aspects of the problem. I do not want to go into the salient features of the Bill as they have already been highlighted by the hon. Minister and are also given in the body of the Bill, but I would like to emphasise upon the need to effectively implement the laws as has been stated by many hon. Members, because in its absence no concrete result is achieved. Sole dependence on bureaucracy for implementing laws can do no good, if awareness in the society is not created in its favour. The hon. Minister has rightly described drug abuse as an evil from which we have to be beware of, otherwise it will pose a danger for own posterity. I won't go into the details of the problem of drug abuse but would present statistics in this connection. At present roughly 700 thousand persons are drug addicts in the country and in big cities like Bombay and Delhi, their number is about one lakh each. Out of this, as many as 10,000 are school going children. All this is an indicative of the alarming proportions the problem has assumed. 80 percent of heroin and charas going to European countries is routed through India. In 1987 Interpol seized 7.7 tonnes of heroin. In 1987, 2.7 tonnes of drugs were smuggled from India to America and European countries. In 1983, 193 kilogrammes was seized in 1984, 203 kg; 1985, 761 kg; 1986, 859 kg; in 1987, 2716 kg. This shows that the problem was worsen with the every increase in the number of laws. So I request the hon. Minister to think over the issue seriously.

14.00 hrs.

First of all the Government should locate the places where opium is grown in the country. In the beginning opium was cultivated for medicinal purposes only. But nowadays opium is smuggled out in large

quantities though its medicinal use cannot be undermined. I fully support the need emphasised by some of my colleagues not to depend solely on one agency to check smuggling and involve all the police agencies in the task.

Now I would like to talk about Kashmir. The august House is well aware of the source of charas which is despatched in the apple containers. Yesterday "The Times of India" reported that the road along Punjab and Kashmir borders which connects Pakistan is totally unsafe. Unfortunately the B.S.F. jawans are in league with them. I do not want to criticise B.S.F. which has been protecting our borders bravely. I only want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister so that he may take action to check such activities.

The Government must take action against the terrorists crossing the border with heroin and charas. It is unfortunate that you press the bell too early to conclude my speech. Sir, I hail from the area where this problem is quite alarming. So I request you to grant me more time to explain my point. I submit that the permission to export poppy straw should not be given. For small gains the Government should not prefer bigger losses and impose restrictions of export of poppy straw.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances (Amendment) Bill which has been introduced in the House.

When this Bill was introduced in the House in 1985 we had hoped that smuggling in narcotics would decline. There were provisions in 1985 Act also to control it. Had the 1985 Act been effectively implemented the situation would not have deteriorated to such an extent as it is found today in the schools and colleges of Delhi and Bombay.

Today, guardians think that if their wards attend schools in Delhi they may start consuming drugs and other intoxicants. Many hon. Members said that according to available statistics there are one lakh drug addicts in Delhi. The figure for the city of Bombay was also given. At present there are nearly five crore drug addicts in India. As hon. Members said, the coming generation will see a ten-fold increase in the number of drug addicts.

An hon. Member pointed out that even though Shrimati Indira Gandhi was assassinated in broad daylight, the guilty have not been punished till now. Our judicial process is so weak that four years have passed but the guilty have not been punished as yet. Even if a stricter bill to check drug abuse is introduced in the House, we will be thankful to the hon. Minister and the Government for introducing it. Special courts should be set up in border areas. I come from Bihar and would like to raise certain matters related to the State. Just now hon. Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta was speaking. Her constituency lies on the Indo-Nepal border. Next to that is hon. Shri Manoj Pandey's constituency of West Champaran. After that comes my constituency, Gopalganj. Today I had raised this matter under rule 377 that the main groups of Bombay and of certain other places are busy in engaging, hon. Members will be surprised to know, labour numbering in thousands on Nepal border for the large scale smuggling of drugs. I do not want to say much about officials of the Customs Department but they will not be able to make any seizures if they are not well equipped. Today thousands of men cross the Nepalese border at Gopalganj carrying pouches of 'ganja'. When some Custom officials picked up the courage to take action, 10-12 inspectors and other officials of Customs were murdered in that area. A few days back some hon. Members in this House raised questions on cocaine farming, brown sugar and 'hashish'. Unless we give widespread

publicity to this problem and make the general public the youth in particular, well informed about the evil effects of the drugs, we will not succeed in controlling it.

It is really surprising that responsible officials of Air India and Indian Airlines like pilots and air-hostesses have been apprehended in smuggling cases. Persons held guilty of such offences would be dismissed from service and if apprehended again for committing the same offence would, according to the provisions of this Act, be sentenced to death. Detention orders have been issued in 207 cases. May I know from hon. Shri Panja whether a provision would be made in this amending bill that the law would be applicable to those notorious people who have been apprehended more than once. Such people should also be brought under the purview of this amendment Bill.

With these words I express any whole-hearted support for the Amending Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Already the time is over. The Minister has to reply. But there are many Members to speak. But nobody is adhering to the time.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: This being a very important Bill, let the hon. Members participate for some minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will put a deadline at 2.30 when the Minister will reply. You have to cooperate. In another 20 minutes, about 10 Members can speak for 2 minutes each. Kindly cooperate with the chair.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Sir, I fully support the present Amendment Bill. I will deal with only points.

You have prescribed capital punish-

[Sh. Shantaram Naik]

ment for those people who take drugs continuously and who are indulging in taking drugs for a period of one or two years. Now those who take drugs become mentally ill, in the sense, they become sick persons and therefore this clause with respect to capital punishment will not be implemented. Those who are mentally ill or sick cannot be guillotined or executed. Therefore, this clause will remain on paper itself.

Secondly, real consciousness with respect to this problem came in 1985 when we passed this legislation. And, therefore, we should see from that point of view. One song, which was popularly broadcast AIR and it is played time and again is:

Dum maro dum mit jaye gum
Bolo subah sham
Hare krishna Hara Ram

14.12 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

Now, you see, even if I play such type of song from my studio, I really get intoxicated. I know, Doordarshan does not telecast this song. But AIR should also ban this particular song.

As far as special court is concerned, we should appoint special judges exclusively to deal with the cases of drug offences. It is not adequate to have only sitting additional judge or additional district judge. Therefore, you have to appoint special judge for the purpose.

As far as Goa is concerned, you have to see that you take certain steps. About the tourist area, there are specified areas which are drug prone. Do not leave those things only to the hands of the State Government but you should continuously monitor as far as those areas are concerned in order to

cure this menace.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK (Kalahandi): While supporting the Bill I just emphasise one or two points from the general point of view. There should be a programme now to get rid of brown sugar and save this country. It is not only nationally phenomenon but has become international phenomenon. So, the forum of SAARC and UNO should also be utilised for this purpose. The TV, AIR, mass media and newspapers should give due time and attention to this aspect so that they can create mass education in the entire mankind, especially in our country. Unless they do that, the creative genius of our younger generation and the muscle power and the mental power the whole country is going to be destroyed by this dangerous brown sugar.

We should minimise the areas of opium cultivation. Taking the help of the Planning Commission and the Agriculture Department, we should take all those areas for some alternative crop. Taking into account the soil conditions and altitude, it has been observed that we can grow cauliflower and tomatoes in those areas. We should allow a minimum area of opium exclusively for medical purpose only.

We should mobilise the State units to create some beds in all the hospitals for de-addicting the addicted persons. Otherwise, we cannot save the younger generation who are already victims of this drug habit. All measures should be taken to stop this drug trafficking. The whole House will support this Bill.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment Bill. First of all I congratulate the hon. Minister and the people working under him for doing an excel-

lent job.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, life-saving drugs are not available in the country whereas narcotics are easily available. One of the reasons for this is the rising unemployment in our country. I urge the hon. Minister to increase the level of awareness about this problem in the country. Mere introduction of a Bill cannot solve the problem. Foodstuffs consumed by school children are adulterated with drugs. Awareness as to this should be increased among parents and political leaders. This Bill can be more effective if the general public is aware of the problem. There should be a social boycott of drug addicts. Yesterday we passed the bill on electoral reforms, in which it was provided that drug addict cannot contest in elections. A provision was also made for a six-year punishment. In the present bill a provision has been made for special courts to be set up for drug addicts and drug peddlars. I suggest that there should be a time-bound programme for the disposal of cases referred to these special courts. Otherwise we may find that several M.Ps who make tall claims in the House behave differently outside. They go and plead the cases of drug addicts. Such M.Ps should be disqualified.

[English]

I am not referring to anyone. The hon. Minister should find out the truth whether what I am saying is right or wrong.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)... I am saying that several M.Ps make tall claims. M.Ps plead the case of those who deal in drugs. And for this trouble the former takes Rs. 2,000/- through a cheque and Rs. 10,000/- in each from the latter. Such M.Ps should be disqualified. If we politicians are aware and stop supporting drug-dealers then nobody will come out to help them.

I request the hon. Minister to open district-wise information centres to increase awareness among the youths. Through these centres local people can inform the authorities about persons dealing in narcotics. Then action should be taken accordingly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are ringing the bell I shall conclude my speech by congratulating the hon. Minister once again.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Chairman, Sir, probably every hon. Member who spoke on this bill has mentioned Delhi in his speech. Let me tell you that the situation in Delhi is really bad. Just now it was mentioned that the number of drug addicts in Delhi is one lakh. I may tell you that the figure is still higher and is at least 10 lakhs and not one lakh. One lakh drug addicts can be found in Chandni Chowk, Matia Mahal and Paharganj areas along. Drugs are sold in every alley in that area. I invite the hon. Minister to take a trip down the lanes of that areas. He won't have any trouble finding out the points where smack is sold. He can witness smack being sold off the pavements and smack addicts in every house over there. Addicts self of household items like the television sets to satisfy their needs. The distressed parent of these addicts ask the authorities to take their sons into custody fearing that the family house may be sold off one day. I do not know if the steps proposed to be taken will effective or not because implementation is to be done by the police and it is the police under whose protection these smack peddlers operate. If any complaint is made against smack sellers, the police official instead of apprehending the culprits harass the complainant so that he does not make such a complaint again. This is the State of affairs existing today. some steps are proposed to be taken for this like setting up of de-addiction centres. It is matter of shame that the Delhi Police has set up a de-addic-

[Sh. Jai Prakash Agarwal]

tion centre near the gates of a Girls Higher Secondary School. Our values have eroded to such an extent that we have set up a de-addiction centre for drug addicts near the gates of a Girls Higher Secondary School. This will not do. I would like to offer a few suggestions in this regard. A provision is already there to give 10 percent commission as a reward to those who assist in apprehending the people engaged in illicit drug trafficking. In the same way, a similar provision should be made even in this bill or to give promotion to those who enable the Government to get the people involved in illicit drug trafficking arrested or sent behind the bars, so that the deserving persons may be benefitted.

Secondly, a task force should be deployed particularly in Delhi and Bombay where the consumption and illicit trafficking in drugs is at its maximum.

Thirdly, I would like to submit that the social organisations have their least concern with it. The police is also not at all prepared to work with the cooperation of these organisations. Actually the Government has taken a wrong step by entrusting the entire responsibility to the police because the deal with the problem of law and order whereas this is a wide spread social evil and it cannot be rooted out from the society without the active cooperation of the public in general. So the government should also associate these organisations, to fight out this evil.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla):
Mr Chairman, Sir, I must congratulate our esteemed friend Shri Ajit Panja for piloting this Bill. There are very good provisions in this Bill. I have gone through the Statement of Objects and Reasons. For bringing in all

these good provisions, I must congratulate him. But there is one thing which is very vague i.e. to provide death penalty on second conviction on respect of specified offences involving specified quantities of certain drugs..” You will do it by rule. But, sometimes, we don't care to see the rule. Therefore, while you reply to the debate, kindly say something as to which is the offence for giving the death penalty. We must know something about this. There is no time, because we have been given only two or three minutes. Therefore, I would like to make only a couple of suggestions. The Statement of Objects and Reasons is very clear. I congratulate the hon. Minister for that. But, we do not know that when they confiscate these drugs, after that what happens. We do not know about that. There should be a system by which they should inform the people of India. So, I want a complete list of people who were convicted in the past. At least, we must have the figures available for the last decade.

My second point is regarding the quantities of objectionable drugs and other materials that were confiscated during the past decade. We must know how those quantities of drugs were disposed of.

My third point is about the Hippy Culture and this must be eradicated and stopped. It can be done by the Government. Why don't they do it? This Hippy Culture has become a menace around the health resorts. For instance, we can enjoy the natural beach in Goa. But, we cannot go there. In the name of so many missions, they come and spoil our atmosphere and pollute our culture. We should not allow that anymore. It may be a foreigner or anybody from India. Even in Kashmir, it has become a great menace when we invite the foreign tourists. Hippies also come. so, there should be some restriction on that.

My last suggestion is that. Shri Aggar-

wal has rightly pointed this out. I have been seeing in colleges, Universities, Higher Secondary Schools and even in the Secondary Schools that in the vicinity of schools, brown-sugar and other objectionable drugs are available. Even the obscene literature is available. The Minister can invite MPs and we can visit these schools and colleges where we can see what kind of obscene literature is there. It is not the case of Delhi alone but of all the major cities. I want a mobile vigilant squad in the vicinity of schools and colleges and all the major cities should be alerted. No shopkeeper should be allowed to supply any drugs. The hon. Minister is going to reply now, we want that in all the major cities particularly in Delhi, in the vicinity of schools and colleges whereas brown sugar and other drugs are available, it should be made impossible for anybody to sell these drugs and for that you can have mobile squad.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Sir, drug traffickers are not only the enemies of society but also offenders against humanity. Rigorous punishment should be given to them.

I would like to give two suggestions in this regard. The first thing is that, the Government is going to consult the SAARC countries in this matter to seek their cooperation. That is good. The Governments of Thailand and Singapore should also be consulted on it because the tourists who happen to visit these countries are also engaged in smuggling. They bring with them charas and other narcotic drugs. That is why all these steps are amust. Similarly, the Government should develop their own Departmental Force to meet the challenge in Delhi and other metropolitan cities. Such departmental force should work in close coordination with the police. It should not be left to them alone. It should be the joint

responsibility to make a search in this regard. Because our experience with the police personnel has not been a good one. That is why there should be a departmental force for this purpose. Thirdly, the quantities of material and the property seized should be utilised for the rehabilitation of the addicts and the maximum possible amount should be provided for the purpose. Similarly, provision should also be made for the rehabilitation of those who have taken drugs or committed the offence of drug peddling for the first time. Finally, as Soz Saheb has also pointed out, there has been the influx of hippies in this country in the name of tourist. Hence, the Government should take measures to put some restriction on them. In the end, I would like to point out one thing that despite the restriction imposed on the cultivation of opium the problem cannot be solved unless the cultivation of opium is nationalised. So the Government should nationalise the cultivation of opium at the earliest. Thanks.

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill. I hope it would bear good results. Our past experience shows that the disease aggravated with every dose of medicine. Just now we were told that the total number of drug addicts, at present, is 10 lakhs and it is likely to increase ten times in the coming years. But our dismayed attitude would not do to enforce the law quite effectively. Napoleon had said that passing of laws is easy but it is quite difficult to implement them. My submission is that there are a number of laws in our country but they have not been duly implemented. Earlier speakers have also cited numerous examples to substantiate it. Our former Prime Minister was brutally murdered but the legal proceedings have not yet been completed. With that way of functioning of our judiciary how can we implement the laws to check the incidence of such crimes? In

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such cases, the Government should act promptly. Unless immediate action is taken in regard to the trafficking of drugs or any other offence, the existing law would not have its desired effect.

Under the prevailing system of law, even the worst offenders manage to go scot free, due to which even those who want to cooperate with Government, prefer to keep themselves aloof and that unduly delays the entire legal procedure. The problem of drug-addiction is not confined only to India but it is an international phenomenon. Recently an international seminar was organised to discuss the issue. In fact, all the countries of the world should work inclose coordination to check the trafficking of narcotic drugs at the international level. That would be a more effective step. Mahatma Gandhi had stressed upon the need of total prohibition in the country but now we have deviated from it. We can check the illicit drug trafficking in an effective manner only when we are determined to bring in total prohibition.

*SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO (Amalapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I whole heartedly support the Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substances (Amendment) Bill. Gone are the days of drinking. Now the society is facing a new threat from the consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. This Bill has been introduced with a very good intention and I hope the Hon. Minister would see to it to implement it in letter and spirit.

The future of the country is dependent of youth power. Unfortunately it is the youth who are affected by the evil influence of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Sir, today the position is such that the parents are literally afraid of sending their children to schools and Colleges. Par-

ents are now refusing to send their children to nearby towns and cities for the very reason that they may get addicted to the drugs. Now almost all major cities and towns have come under the grip of the drugs. We could not prevent it. I hope, the Government would take necessary steps atleast now, to prevent the addiction reaching villages.

The golden triangle countries have become the nerve centre for the illicit drug trafficking. Our country has become a major transit point in this trade. The persons who are involved in the illicit drug trafficking are none other than big businessmen and other influential personalities of our society. Quite often these called big businessmen escape from the punishment using their influence. The Govt. should not spare anyone, however big he may be, if he is involved in illicit drug trafficking. He is the enemy of the society.

Sir, United Nations is doing a commendable job in making the worked free of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. India should help the United Nations in everyway in this noble endeavour.

Sir, hundreds of Kgs. of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances are being seized everyday. I want; to know how the seized substances are being destroyed. The seized drugs and substances should have to be effectively destroyed so that they may not find a way again into the market.

Many substances which are used for manufacturing the narcotic drugs are freely available in the market. Though there is a control on these substances, it is not quite effective. Until and unless the supply of these substances are effectively checked, there will not be; much use in passing such amendments as this, in checking the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

Sir, our society is gradually coming under the evil influence of drugs. Even the middle class and poor families are getting ruined because of this influence. Hence I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to take effective steps to free our society from the evil influence of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill which has been introduced in the House. But at the same time, I would like to point out that laws often remain unimplemented even after their enactment. The Government should ensure the implementation of the laws which have been framed by them. For instance, drug addicts manage to get opium from the open market though at high prices. Because the police personnel are hand in glove with those who are engaged in this malpractice. The Government finds itself incapable to take any action against such persons. Similarly, wine is available at wine shops, yet people manage to buy narcotic drugs at cheap rates from the chemist shops which are injurious to them. It is an evil practice. This should be stopped. Anyway, I support the Bill

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA: I am grateful to the Hon. Members for the active and lively participation in the debate on this Bill. The main point which has been thrust upon by almost all the members on both the sides is that the Act after coming into force should be properly implemented.

We have to first of all see the Act that was passed in 1985 which is sought to be amended now by making some other provisions to strengthen the hands of the law enforcing authorities. We find since the Act was passed in 1985 there were 5525 prosecutions in 1986. In 1987 there were 4503 prosecutions and upto November 1988

there have been 2260 prosecutions. The number of convictions in 1986 was 586. In 1987 the number was 247 and upto November 1988 the number is 232. Most of the time on very technical grounds, while proving actual substance which had been seized in the Court of law, certain difficulties were created. Therefore, the detention ordinance was passed and thereafter it was made into an Act. Under the COFEPOSA Act which involved drug trafficking 167 drug traffickers are under detention. Under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs Act 1988 by this time we have detained 221 drug traffickers. Therefore, the total number of drug traffickers under preventive detention is 388 as on date.

Many members made the point about destruction of drugs. We find from 15th April 1988 to 1st December, 1988 we have destroyed heroin to the tune of 3691 kg; ganja 2,12,326 kg, hashish 31,899 kg; mandrix 2901 kg and 12.92 lakh tablets. Previously the rule was that it had to be taken wherever it is seized to Neemuch and Ghazipur—the two factories of the Government of India—where it had to be destroyed in a particular manner. We found there were difficulties of transporting them after seizure and also in proving the case and preserving evidence. Now at the State level in all the Central Forensic Laboratories or area Central hospitals we can destroy those drugs. By incendiary we are destroying those. We are also exploring the possibility of making destruction of these drugs in public to bring confidence to the members of the public. It has been tried in some parts of the world but there are certain precautions to be taken as even after destruction of the drug the ash contains some of the potency. Therefore, some experts are working on it to have water jet washing so that even the ash could not be used for other purpose.

These are the steps being taken so far as the Act is concerned and it is not that since

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1985 no action has been taken. Why this amendment has been brought in is to see that India being in the transit area between the golden triangle and the golden crescent while it is in the passage there are spill-overs and also when our action takes place they either throw away or sell it or try to take it in small shipments. That is why India was facing problems.

To tackle this problem, there major steps have been taken under this Bill. First is death penalty. Death penalty has been provided for the second offence. The hon. Member, Mr. Saifuddin Soz, asked for the details by which death penalty is to be given. If the hon. Member looks at section 31-A, it has been provided how much quantity is to be obtained for enforcing death penalty. Considering the amount which is being transported between golden crescent and golden triangle and involvement of various people in India, it was thought that the punishment which was given for the second offence, was not deterrent enough. Therefore, the previous punishment of 10 years and 20 years in the first offence and 15 to 20-30 years in the second offence are remaining. But in case of serious offences after examining with the exports and other countries' laws, we found that it is necessary that in case of a serious offence—even though second offence—the hon. Judge will have power under the law to provide for death penalty. I need not go into the details but the death penalty has been provided in the case of serious offences.

So far as the drug-addicts are concerned, concern has been expressed by the hon. Member—and I am with them—about the treatment centres available in the country so far as existing drug-addicts are concerned and the counselling centres available so that the social workers go into action to inform the people specially young-

sters or their parents and guardians. How to tackle this problem? We find that Health and Welfare Department as well as the Department of Social Welfare has taken certain steps in respect of these areas. So far as Ministry of Health is concerned, 16 institutions and hospitals have already been provided in the country with the facilities for deaddiction. In Delhi, a concern has been expressed. Some Members wanted to know the particulars of the hospital where it is available. In the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, 10 beds have been specified; G.B. Pant Hospital, 5 beds; Safdarjung Hospital, 10 beds; Lady Hardinge Hospital, 5 beds; and All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, 8 beds. These 30 beds are in operation and those are looking after the cases which are coming there.

There is also a 30-bed deaddiction centre which has been set up in Din Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital in addition to those already in operation. Then a 20-bed hospital has been sanctioned for Safdarjung Hospital. We are having a meeting of our Cabinet Sub-Committee and are asking the Health Department to expedite as quickly as possible.

The amount that has been sanctioned in 1987-88 was only Rs. 78 lakhs. In 1988-89, it was Rs. 80 lakhs. Now, we have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 295.5 lakhs which has been earmarked for setting up special additional deaddiction centres with 30 beds each. These will be five in Delhi, one in Chandigarh and one in Pondicherry. We are starting in this manner.

I know that the need is more and the more we provide them this, it will be better for the people. That's why this Cabinet Sub-Committee is having meetings almost every month or every two months to see how far it is going and how the advance is being made for the purpose of setting up hospitals.

The Ministry of Welfare has set up training courses and seminars. I find in 1987-88, there were 53 training courses and seminars organised throughout the country in various States and Union Territories. In 1988-89, 418 persons have been trained about how to give counselling and how to operate this de-addiction centre—16 training courses were held throughout the country to train young persons—doctors, nurses and other—for the purpose of catering to the needs of people who want counselling. In 1985-86, we had 21 de-addiction centres; in 1986-87 we had another 23 such centres, and in 1987-88, we added 26 more de-addiction centres. In 1988-89, 30 de-addiction camps have been organised.

So far as counselling centres are concerned, 57 counselling centres have been sanctioned by the Welfare Department and we are hurrying them. The Cabinet Sub Committee has given them the target date by which counselling centres have to be established.

So far as electronic media, television and radio, are concerned, we are giving spots and some short films have also been given. Serials are also being given. Efforts are being made for involving the print media also by various advertisements being issued. Some good writers are being asked to give good write-ups for the print media.

The Ministry of Education has also started to tackle this problem so some reports have stated. We need our infrastructure to be strengthened immediately, and for that the people who will be trained for this purpose, their curricula, syllabi, subject matters etc. have to be modernised and modelled in that fashion. Therefore, in the course for M.B.B.S., we are going to put a special subject for the purpose of tackling drug-addiction and how to control drug addicts. So far social side is concerned, in M.A. (Sociology), a particular chapter is

being added for the purpose of making our young generation aware of this, and help in creating infrastructure for tackling this problem. In the courses for B.Sc (Nursing)—the course meant for training the nurses, there also we are adding curricula and syllabi for this purpose. They would be told how to tackle a drug addict, because he is different from the other ordinary patients. Then, for courses, B.Sc (Home Science), B. Education and M. Education, we are also including these subjects; the syllabi and curricula drawn up by the experts would be implemented. The NSS have also adopted certain anti-drug campaigns throughout the country for the purpose of tackling this problem.

The other point raised by the hon. Member is to have a mobile squared. We are fully aware that there are certain constraints for funds. Here, our difficulty is that if we seize any article other than drug and narcotics, there is some income from that, but so far as drugs and narcotic are concerned, they have to be mandatorily destroyed. No earning is possible. In fact, we have to pay money from the Government funds to the informer and also to the officers who are risking their lives for the purpose of talking this.

I have here figure with me about the rewards given to the officers etc. The amount up to the month of November, 1988, was Rs. 1567485; this was for the rewards given to the officers. So far as the rewards to the people for giving information which resulted in seizures are concerned, we have up to November this year given rewards amounting to Rs. 2848964. The total amount that has been spent for the purpose of giving reward is Rs. 44,16000 up to November this year.

This has to be a people's movement. It has to be tackled that way. That is why the Social Welfare Department is not only relying on the State agencies, but it is also

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involving voluntary organizations. Some names have been given by some hon. Members, and they said that some good organizations have not been involved in this. If the hon. Members give me the addresses and names of those organizations, certainly those organizations would be considered for being given monetary help for helping overcome this menace. Sir, it is not that the people are not involved in this. It has been seen that not only in this House but outside also people of India and also people all over the world have raised their voice to eradicate this evil from the face of the globe.

Sir, we have been successful in eradicating the Small Pox, a dreaded disease. A nation-wide public opinion was created and with the help of modern technology this disease was eradicated. But in this evil of drug trafficking human being is the culprit. It is not the germs, as in the case of the small pox, who are to be tackled. It is the human being whom we have to tackle. Human being is the culprit and that is why a deterrent punishment of death penalty has been brought in.

Not only in India, all over the world, wherever it is debated, it has received full support of the people. Thousands of people participated in this drive against the drugs and everybody in the country has contributed its mite. One Hon. member mentioned that in certain areas of Delhi these drugs are being sold at the footpaths and so on. I can assure the Hon. Members and the House, and, through you, to all the countrymen, that we shall leave no stone unturned to see that all the provisions of this Bill are given effect to. We are fully aware of the implementation part of the Bill and that is why a Narcotic Drugs Board has been formed.

The Prime Minister himself attended three meetings of 1 hour and 30 minutes

duration in order to give guidance to the Cabinet Sub-Committee as to how it has to be done. The steps were taken accordingly and we are going ahead with them.

Now, to talk about the international organisations. Some Hon. Members asked as to what are the results of our talks.

We have coordinated with the Governments of Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. I have been to Burma personally and I had a dialogue with them. We have three-fold aim. Firstly, we have to get the information of these drug traffickers who are crossing the border of our country and going into other countries. Secondly we have to get the information about those people who commit offence in India and then cross over to other countries. Hon. members also mentioned about the business in Rajasthan, Balmer and Jaselmare. I know these are the sensitive areas. I have already answered them when they asked me questions about this during the Question-Hour.

The last thing is to see that the United Nations Fund is properly utilised. So far as we are concerned, 20 million American dollars have been received by our country and we are utilising them according to the norms envisaged by the United Nations.

Then, we have also set up a National Fund; a fund for the purpose of tackling this menace of drugs which will be controlled by the Parliament.

All the Property Act and other sections of such Acts from 1969 onwards, have been given specific power to trace the properties of these drug traffickers. Those who are found to have made property out of drug trafficking will be fined.

With all these words I submit that the Bill be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Narcotic Drugs and psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up Clause-by -Clause Consideration.

There is no amendment to clauses 2 and 3.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill

Clause 4

(Insertion of new Chapter II A)

SHRI D.B. PATIL (Kolaba): I beg to move:

Page 3, line 31,-

for "as soon as may be", substitute "within three months"(1)

Under Section

7A(1) of Chapter-IIA

A National fund for Control of Drug Abuse has been provided.

It has been mentioned in this Clause 7B that "the Central Government shall, as soon as may be, after the end of each financial year, cause to be published in the Official Gazette, a report giving an account of the activities financed under section 7A during

the Financial Year, together with a statement of accounts."

According to this, a special fund is being created and it will have crores of rupees and accounts of this fund should be submitted within three months.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: A provision has been made that it will be made available as soon as possible for this purpose. It is not within three months. It is because the whole Financial Year is taken into consideration. Therefore, within three months we do not want to put any limit, but within the Financial Year, accounting had to be made because this is a public fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri D.B. Patil to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 1 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clauses 5 to 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 5 to 13 were added to the Bill,

Clauses 14

(insertion of new section 52 A)

SHRI D.B. PATIL: I beg to move:

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Page 9, line 10,-

after "such officer"

insert "in the presence of the Magistrate having jurisdiction to try the case"(2)

Page 9, line 24,-

for "any Magistrate" *substitute-*

"the Magistrate having jurisdiction to try the case"(3)

Page 9, line 27,-

for "or" *substitute* "and" (4)

Page 9,-

omit lines 28 to 30 (5).

The following is proposed under Clause 14 of this Bill-Disposal of seized drugs and psychotropic substances.

Here a provision has been made that the police officer is authorised to dispose of things. So far as this particular law in concerned, a Sessions Judge from Ahmedabad has in his judgement directed certain police officers to prosecute the police officers because of misuse of power. Under this Act itself, prosecution can be made for misuse of power. I will quote one case "A police case was filed under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill 1985. The Sessions Judge observed that the Police Department should not register the case against the Sub-Inspector or Constable for trumping of a case against one person under the Act. He directed the police department to take action against those two staff members and the Police Superintendent of misuse of power and neglect of duty.

So, I have submitted that the disposal should be done in the presence of the magistrate who has the authority to try this particular case. If the police officer is given the powers, he is likely to misuse. Hence I have suggested this Amendment.

Now, the hon. Minister has stated that the Government is thinking of disposing of such Articles in public. That is very well taken. So far as this particular thing is concerned, you can't do it. At least in the presence of magistrate, it can be done. There is no harm in accepting my Amendment.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: In this vast country, our judiciary already engaged in various things. Here the power is given to the Sessions Judge. If I seize narcotics in a particular village and if I ask the Sessions Judge to be present there for the purpose of destruction, other things will be put in difficulty. I hope the hon. Member will realise this. We have given powers to officers while making the rules. We are fully aware that it had to be done by a senior officer on who the country can rely. The police officer does not mean that all police officers are bad. This is our system. We must rely on this system. One or two exceptions like the Ahmedabad judgement does not prove anything that all the police officers are dishonest. We have to rely on our systems. There are good police officers. Senior officers are there and also other officers to the narcotic department who may be empowered to present at the time of destruction. These things may be done under the rules or by any notification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now put the amendments moved by Shri Patil to the vote of the House.

*Amendments Nos. 2 to 5 were put and
negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That *Clause 14* stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14 was added to the Bill.

Clause 15

(Insertion of new section 53 A)

SHRI D.B. PATIL: I beg to move:

Page 10,

omit lines 1 to 6

In *Clause 15*, under (a) it is mentioned:

"When the person who made the statement is dead or cannot be found, or is incapable of giving evidence, or is kept out of the way by the adverse party, or whose presence cannot be obtained without an amount of delay or expense which, under the circumstances of the case, the court considers unreasonable,...."(6)

There, it is said that the statement should be admitted as evidence in the court of law. In such cases, the person who has made a statement will not be available for cross examination; and if a person is not available for cross-examination, the statement should not be taken as evidence. I am aware of the fact that there is a provision under the law that the declaration of a dying person which is attached, is admissible in evidence. But it is admissible because he is dead or is going to die, and if he is going to die, he is not going to speak untruth. On that basis, it has been provided. that the statement of a dying person, the declaration of a dying person, should be admissible as evidence. If we look at it this way, the Government can say, or the investigating authorities can say that it is not easy, or that the expenses will be very large i.e. if the expenses are very large and if they are going to accept

it in this way. then I think it is not fair, so far as the rule of law is concerned. It goes against the rule of law, and principles of basic law. So, my amendment.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: But it is not against the principles of basic law. Dying declarations are already recognized, so far as our Evidence Act and also other Acts are concerned, and even in criminal cases. So, these are not necessary. Unnecessary expenditure will be involved in this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now put amendment No. 6 to clause 15 to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 6 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That *Clause 15* stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.
Clause 15 was added to the Bill.
Clause 16

(Amendment of section 59)

SHRI D. B. PATIL: I beg to move:

Page 10, line 23,—

after "aids in " *insert* " the escape of such person" (7) In *Clause 16* it has been provided:

(2) Any Officer on whom any duty has been imposed by or under this Act or any person who has been given the custody of,;—

(a) any addict; or

(b) any other person who has been charged with an offence under this Act, and who willfully aids in,..."

[Sh. D.B. Patil]

I have provided that in such cases, anybody who aids in the escape of such a person should also be punished. I think this is a very simple amendment. The intention is that if anybody aids in escape, he should be punished.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: This is already covered. If the hon. Member applies his mind a little more, he will see that the genesis of 'aids in' is quite wide enough to include trafficking, escaping and all that. If we put in only the word escape, then the thrust is lost; the whole thrust will be lost. Therefore, 'aids in' is the word, the genesis of which includes escape and other things viz. throwing him out or injuring him. So, I think this is not necessary at all.

SHRI D. B. PATIL: I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment No. 7 was, by leave, withdrawn.

There is no amendment to *clauses 17 and 18.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That *Clauses 16 to 18 stand part of the Bill.*"

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 16 to 18 were added to the Bill.

Clause 19

(Insertion of new Chapter)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri H.B. Patil. Your amendments are Nos. 8 to 14.

SHRI D.B. PATIL: I am not moving amendment No. 8 but I move all the other amendments Nos. 9 to 14.

I beg to move:

Page 11, line 23,—

add at the end—

"and having knowledge of illicit traffic by such person" (9)

Page 11 line 25,—

add at the end—

"and having knowledge of the activities of illicit traffic by such person" (10)

Page 11, line 39,—

add at the end—

"and having knowledge of the activities of illicit traffic by such person" (11)

Page 12, line 2,—

add at the end—

"and having knowledge of the activities of illicit traffic by such person" (12)

Page 12, —

omit lines 3 to 6 (13)

Page 16, line 11,—

after "also" insert

"in spite of the receipt of the show cause notice". (14)

It has been provided under Chapter VA under the heading, "Forfeiture of property derived from, or used in illicit traffic". "Illegally acquired property" has been defined in 68B (g) and "property" has been defined in 68B(h). It makes a lot of difference.

So far as illegally acquired property is concerned, the procedure has been laid down under 68C about "Prohibition of holding illegally acquired property". The provisions for "Identifying illegally acquired property" are laid down in 68 E(1). The Provisions for "Seizure or freezing of illegally acquired property" are found in 68F(1). Enough precautions have been taken so far as illegally acquired property is concerned. So far as property is concerned, it has been defined this way:

"Property" means property and assets of every description whether corporeal or incorporeal, movable or immovable, tangible or intangible and deeds and instruments, evidencing title to or interest in, such property or assets derived from"

this is important "derived from or used in, the illicit traffic,"

So far as illegally acquired property is concerned, these provisions are made and I have explained how to identify and other things. so far as this property is concerned, if one goes to a court of law how can it be proved that it has been derived from any illicit traffic? whether it has been used in illicit traffic. I do not know why this provision is kept open for interpretation. There ought to have been a stricter provision. So far as this forfeiture or property proved from or used in illicit traffic is concerned, this comes in after the conviction of the person.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is there already. You speak on the amendment.

SHRI D.B. PATIL: It is also provided that "every person who is a relative of a person referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) or clause (c), has property also will be forfeited, until and unless it is established..."

He cannot establish responsibility for that. Under the Criminal law the fundamen-

tal principle of civil liability is there. It requires the guilty man to establish *mens rea*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is already there. Please speak on the amendment.

SHRI D. B. PATIL: I am speaking on the amendment only. What I am saying is unless and until it is proved that the property is acquired illegally he cannot be punished.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Here the emphasis of the entire section is on the property it has to be proved. We cannot take away the property for nothing unless there is an authority of law. After the drug trafficker is arrested and punished, and if it is found that out of the earnings of his illegal dealing in drugs he has made the property, we have a right to seizure. Under Section 68E there is a particular procedure laid down as to how to trace the property, the assets and moveable and immovable property. So far as the rules are concerned, there is no doubt that there is *mens rea*. But here, the *mens rea* does not mean a criminal act as such. *Mens rea* under the model of Indian Penal Code or the Criminal Procedure Code is totally different. Here it is true that a person who has been convicted, if he transfers his property to his sons, daughters, or whoever may be, son, grandson, great grand son, or wedded daughter, daughter's son, whoever it maybe, we will be able to prove that and get hold of the property and put it in national fund.

Therefore the amendment is not necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put Amendments Nos. 9 to 14 to Clause 19 to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 9 to 14 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are no Amendments to Clause 20 to 22.

The question is:

"That Clauses 19 to 22 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 19 to 22 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Title were added to the Bill

SHRI A.K. PANJA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Prof. Saifuddin Soz.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Mr. Chairman, I am fully satisfied with the Minister's reply and it was very balanced. But the point is that, so far as vigilance is concerned there may not be any revenue, but there is a very great social gain. So, we should start from Delhi. There could be one or two vehicles and people can go around in the vicinity of the Universities, Colleges, Higher Secondary Schools and Secondary Schools in Delhi. Please consider my suggestion.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, I am sorry that I could not explain to the hon. Member. I am not saying that there is constraint of funds and that is why vigilance cannot be made. Why should Delhi alone be made as an example? We are trying to improve the

Intelligence set-up. It is not necessary to have a flying squad or anything. We should inform the people. They should know where to inform; and the name of the person who inform will be kept secret. A format is being prepared in this regard so that people on their own give information not only for their own children and the society but also for the reward that would be available. It has to go into the minds of the people. *Mafias* sometimes intentionally publish that they are very big and people are afraid. But our boys have smashed in Dhanbad and hundreds of people have cooperated in this. Our boys went there and made the entire operation within forty eight hours. They have been living there for over seventeen years and everyday one murder. Even on chartered Accountant went there for making some survey and suspecting that he was a Narcotic Drug Officer or Customs Officer, he was killed. It is the consciousness of the people, the peoples' involvement, that has to be brought in.

I am sure after the closure of this Session, the hon. Members will go to their own area and held various Seminars, which will create enough confidence...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: But vigilance is something necessary. Atleast you consider it...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, vigilance is necessary, but it has to be done in a covered manner. If a police office goes around the place, people will fly away...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please intimate the members to whom they have to complain

SHRI A.K. PANJA: I can assure the hon. Members that if they could give any information to us, then we will take immediate action. In fact, we are taking immediate action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted.

15.15 hrs

[English]

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

- (i) **Situation arising out of withdrawal of number of trains by eastern and South Eastern Railways.**

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: (Salasora): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he make a statement thereon:-

"Situation arising out of the withdrawal of number of trains by the Eastern and South Eastern Railways and introduction of revised timings of some trains resulting in inconvenience to the passengers and the steps taken by the Government in that regard."

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): Sir, Railways undertake a review of the train services twice a year to examine various demands for new services extension of runs, increase in frequency, diversion of routes and provision of additional stoppages etc. As the Hon'ble Members are aware Railways continue to face severe constraints of resources and have to carry ever-increasing volume of freight and passenger traffic. Therefore, the new demands have also to be met by rationalizing the existing services.

To meet certain long outstanding demands South Eastern Railway introduced the following new services serving the State of Orissa from November this year:-

1. An inter-city day time train 21/22 Dhauli Express between Howrah-Bhubaneswar connecting the two neighbouring State Capitals.

2. 47/48 Hirakhand Express introduced in May, 1988 between Bhubaneswar-Sambalpur connecting western parts with coastal areas of Orissa, was extended to Jharsuguda.

3. A direct fast service from Howrah to Tirupati for the convenience of people living on the East Coast north of Bhubaneswar.

4. Trivandrum/Cochin/Bangalore-Howrah/Guwahati group of train services which are passing through the State of Orissa, were augmented by way of increase in frequency to provide a daily service between Madras-Howrah. These trains which were earlier by-passing Cuttack were diverted to pass through Cuttack. Thus, Cuttack has been connected with Howrah-Guwahati on one side and Trivandrum-Cochin-Bangalore-Madras on the other side by superfast services.

Due to constraints of resources these services could be introduced only by rationalising certain services. We, therefore, had to withdraw one pair of passenger trains on Titlagarh-Jharsuguda section, one pair of passenger trains on Puri-Howrah section, one pair of passenger trains on Bhubaneswar-Palasa section, the slow moving Puri-Tirupati Express as well as the tri-weekly Madras-Howrah Janta Expresses. Nevertheless, to minimise inconvenience on this account Railways introduced the following new services:-

- (1) A pair of shuttle trains between Jharsuguda-Sambalpur JS-3/

[Sh. Mahabir Prasad]

JS-4.

- (ii) A pair of passenger trains 461 / 462 for morning/evening commuters on Kharagpur-Bhadrak section.
- (iii) A pair of shuttle trains between Khurda Road-Puri KP-1/KP-2 with connection at Khurda road for Puri-Tirupati traffic.
- (iv) 47/48 Express made to stop stop at all stations between Khurda Road-Balugaon and between Jharsuguda-Sambalpur.

Neelachal group of trains viz. 175/176 and 915/916 between New Delhi-Puri were re-scheduled to provide a more convenient two night and one day service instead of two days and one night service thus saving a working day of passengers. Also these trains are now arriving at Bhubaneswar in the morning hours and leaving for New Delhi in the evening hours from Bhubaneswar which is more convenient than the previous arrivals in the afternoon hours.

In the end I would like to assure the House that it is our constant endeavour to provide best possible services within the availability of our resources and we will continue our efforts in this direction.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will confine myself only to the statement of the hon. Minister. Sir, with your permission I would like to mention here that the volume of the passenger traffic in Orissa State alone which was surveyed in 1982-83, was 10.75 lakhs. In 1987-88, it has been increased to 16.38 lakhs. It is estimated that by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, it will reach 2 millions. May I know from the hon. Minister how many such trains

have been withdrawn in other zones particularly in South-Eastern Railway? After that I would concentrate on the statement of the hon. Minister. Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the withdrawal of 37/38 Howrah-Madras Janata Express. Sir, you might also be knowing that the passenger train No. 397/398 running between Puri-Asansol has also been withdrawn. So, both these trains have been withdrawn. The reason given for withdrawing these trains was that army was moving in that region, so more trains were necessary. Sir, so far as defence is concerned, it is uppermost in our minds. So, we had not said anything about that and we put up with the difficulties. But in spite of our repeated demands and requests the train N. 397/398 which were serving the common man were not fully restored. Only tri-weekly trains were running for some time. But again they were withdrawn from 1st November 1988. So, you can imagine the difficulties faced by the people in those areas.

Sir, while speaking, the hon. Minister has mentioned about 203/204 Puri-Howrah passenger train. It was a century-old train service and this was introduced first when the B.N.R. was started. These trains were running between Howrah and Puri considering the importance of Puri town and its religious importance also. I am not going to touch other things. But the hon. Minister has said that Train No. 461/462 KGP and BHC has been introduced for which I am grateful to him. But side by side, I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any information that after this train No. 461/462 reaches Kharagpur there is any passenger train to reach Puri and Howrah. There is no train after this train. After reaching Burdwan at 2030 hours there is no passenger train for 12 hours to reach back, Bhubaneswar, Puri, etc. So, the passengers have to wait at the platforms for 8 or 9 hours to get the express train in the mid-night at 1.00 AM or 1.30 A.M. There is one express train running to Puri at

this time. So, Sir, this is a serious situation. This may kindly be considered by the hon. Minister whether it is correct or not.

Similarly, Sir, as my colleagues from the State are aware, the Train No. 215/216 Palasa-BBSR Passenger train was withdrawn. This is causing much inconveniences and difficulties to the railway users. The people are very much agitated over the withdrawing of this train and they have started so many agitations. Similarly the Passenger Train running between Sambalpur-Titilagarh was also withdrawn.

Sir, the hon. Minister in his statement mentioned that Train No. 47/48 that is, Hirakud Express train, has been extended to Jharsuguda. We are grateful to the Railways. But at the same time. Do you know that this train takes about 20 hours to reach Jharsuguda Sambalpur from Bhubaneswar whereas if one travels by road one can reach Sambalpur within 7 or 8 hours. In bus, it takes only 9 to 10 hours. This is the situation with Hirakud Express. Sambalpur-Titilagarh passenger train is withdrawn. Naturally, people are demanding to have stoppages of this Express train. Passengers are prepared to pay Express fare. They are now travelling in a train which takes 20 hours, though it should have taken 8 hours.

The hon. Minister told about the convenience the Railways are providing to the passengers of Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh etc., by changing timings of Train Nos. 175, 176, 915 and 916. You will be surprised to know what time the train Nos. 175, 176, 915 and 916 take though they are Superfast. Now both the trains are consuming more than 2 hours to 2 1/2 hours than the previous timing. Neelanchal Express is also consuming more time. When we are trying to go by Sputnik and Jet, the superfast express train is running with a speed of only 60 to 61 kms. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that a policy decision has

been taken that superfast trains should run at least 90 kms. per hour? The people of Orissa and West Bengal are suffering even though the volume of passenger traffic in our areas is much more than elsewhere. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly ascertain from his senior colleague, Mr. Scindia Ji. In the first week of September, we, all the MPs from Orissa met the hon. Minister, Shri Madhavrao Scindia in his chamber in connection with some railway developmental project. In the course of discussion, one gentlemen, perhaps from the Railway Board had disclosed that they are going to change the timing with the plea that one working day will be saved. With one voice, we opposed this vehemently. Of course, I am grateful to the hon. Minister, Shri Scindia Ji that he has ascertained from us whether the previous timing should stand. In one voice, we have told, "Yes, the previous timing should stand".

At present, Train No. 175 is reaching Delhi at 21.30 hours. We wanted that its departure time at Puri should be advanced by one two hours so that the train can reach New Delhi at least by evening. Ultimately what happened? Now these two trains are starting from Nizamuddin at 23.00 hours; then it will come to New Delhi at 23.30 hours. Again it will reach Delhi Railway Station at mid-night 0.00 hours and then leave for Puri. While coming back from Puri, it will reach Delhi railway station at 3.00 hours in the midnight and then at 3.30 hours at New Delhi Railway station and then reached Nizamuddin Railway Station at 4.30 hours. This train will reach Delhi at 3.30 hrs. Then it will come to New Delhi at 4.00 hrs. It will come to Nizamuddin at 4.30 hrs. This is the situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Try to conclude

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : You know that if we arrive at New Delhi or Old Delhi Railway Station in the night at 11 O'clock or 11.30 PM, the commuters cannot get transport. They have to travel by buses to their

[Sh. Chintamani Jena]

destinations and buses will not be available. Therefore, the people are suffering every day. The hon. Minister may kindly realise this fact.

The new timings of the trains have created great difficulties to the commuters of West Bengal and Orissa particularly because these two pairs of trains are meant for Orissa. 50% of passengers who avail these two trains are facing lot of difficulties because from Bhadrak, Balasore, Kharagpur, Midnapur, Bankura and Bishnupur and also for Tatanagar, whether they are uptrains or downtrains, they have to reach the station in the midnight at 2.00 or 2.30 or 1.00 O'clock. These timings of the trains should be changed immediately. I am confining myself only to the statement given by the hon. Minister.

After 1979 and 1980, Puri-Tirupati Express was withdrawn from Khurda-Puri Section. Nine railway stations on Khurda Road to Puri are facing lot of difficulties.

Tirupati-Howrah Express trains are now running. It is well and good.

The night passengers from Puri to Khurda Road, are facing lot of difficulties due to this re-routing. There are no stoppages for 479 and 480. There should be more stoppages for 470 and 480.

The hon. Minister has said in his statement that 21 and 22 Dhauli Express is a substitute of 203 and 204 Puri-Howrah Passenger. 22 is reaching Howrah at 10.30 PM and it is a day train. But the hon. Minister may kindly go through the time-table. People from Orissa are facing lot of difficulty after reaching Howrah in the midnight. The only solution would be that one more rake should be provided so that simultaneously when it is reaching Bhubaneswar, at the same time, it

will reach Howrah in the day. Simultaneously only one rake is necessary for this train. This may kindly be taken into consideration immediately. The hon. Minister has stated that this is the substitute for 203-204 passenger train. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly go through the time-table. He can see that there are 76 stoppages provided for 203-204 Puri-Howrah train. Also, the 21-22 Dhauli Express is having eight stoppages between Bhubaneswar and Howrah. Therefore, you can imagine as to how the commonman will suffer after the withdrawal of this 203-204 passenger train. Besides, the 17-18 Link Express is also there. The hon. Minister was very kind enough to make a statement that the Railways are looking after the comforts of the commuters. For his kind information, I would like to mention that No. 17-18 Link Express is an Express train. You will be surprised to know that it has been detached in three places and attached in three places. You can imagine the plight of the passengers who are travelling. Sir, the people of Western Orissa as well as the people in two District from Andhra Pradesh are also travelling in that train. They are facing a lot of difficulties. There are many agitations which are going on in Andhra Pradesh also besides Orissa. Therefore, the previous timings of 17-18 Link Express should be restored.

Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that so many trains have been provided for Cuttack. But, you will be surprised to know that the Srijagannath Express is now not touching Cuttack. Cuttack was the previous Capital of Orissa State. The High Court is there. Besides this is a big business centre. The Board of Revenue office and so many things are there. I am not going into all these details. But, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister one thing. I have also got the numbers of certain trains which are touching Cuttack. The Srijagannath Express has been diverted via Narag. The train 203-204 has been withdrawn. So, also the Janata

Express 37-38 has been withdrawn. Does he know that there is no quota from Cuttack Railway Station for those trains which are now touching Cuttack? So, the people of Cuttack are very much agitated. All over the State, in almost all the Stations, there have been agitations against this change of timings and withdrawal of trains. The point is that the magnitude would not have been so intensive if there had not been any harvesting in the State of Orissa. People are engaged in harvest work. I have got the complete information. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that this would paralyse the entire Railway System in the State. Of course, the Railways can say that it is the duty of the State Government to maintain law and order situation. But, if the Railways take such decision and thrust upon the State Government to implement such decisions, how can a popular Government come forward to implement such decisions? Sometimes, arbitrary decisions are taken by the Railways.

I will take only one or two minutes. I would request the restoration of 203-204 Howrah-Puri Passenger train; 397-398 Puri-Asansol Passenger; 37-38 Janata Express; 215-216 Palasa-Bhubaneswar Express and Sambalpur-Titlagarh Passenger. These trains should immediately be restored. Sir, the hon. Minister may be knowing that Western Orissa has got very limited trains. People are demanding for more trains. But, unfortunately, the present Railway Board as well as the Minister decided to withdraw the trains. It will affect people from Western district of Orissa. Train Number 21-22 is running with one rake. It should be given more rakes.

Previously, Train Number 77-78 was called Utkal Express. It used to take 44 hours to reach Delhi. It was one and a half year's back. There was another train called Kalinga Express. Now they have mixed up both the

trains and named it Utkal-Kalinga Express. I request that both the trains should be revived and it should not be mixed up.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Mr. Chairman, I join my hon. friend from the other side to express sorry and satisfaction on the statement submitted by the Deputy Minister of Railways. I can assure you that all sides of the House will join me in expressing sorrow and anguish regarding the latest time table and some other changes made by the railway authorities recently. Even I can assure you that Kumari Mamata Banerjee will also join me to strengthen my hands because she is also waiting anxiously.

The problem started because of the recent railway time table and some other changes made with misplaced sense of improvement by the concerned authority and the Railway Board and the Ministry. While making these changes or rescheduling the railway time table the main problem is, we the Members of Parliament are not taken into confidence either by the Railway Board or by the Ministry or any other railway authority. No one thinks it necessary to consult us. When we go back from Delhi, people will start agitating regarding the time table, regarding the withdrawal of the trains. We cannot say anything. They only accuse us. They say: 'why have you gone to Delhi? You cannot do anything. You don't have any calibre.' We are abused by the public because as parliamentarian we have to go to the people and everyone is very much disturbed and dissatisfied with the railway time table especially with the recent time table and with the withdrawal of trains. Last year, the Minister of State Shri Madhavrao Scindia gave a solemn and categorical assurance that the trains which were withdrawn in January, 1987 will be restored. Till date, no restoration has taken place. This is causing a very serious problem.

[Sh. Anil Basu]

Regarding Orissa, I do not want to elaborate much because you know better than I. Recently there was a 12 hours Puri *bandh* against the Railway time table, withdrawal of the trains and rescheduling of the time table. It was not Calcutta *bandh* or West Bengal *bandh*. It was Puri *bandh* spontaneously observed by the people. And here is Mahabir Prasadji, our Deputy Minister. May we expect that he will be Karam Vir Prasad? I know nothing will happen because the reply of the Minister has not touched the problem. He spoke about some of the trains.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Reply will follow; this is only statement.

SHRI ANIL BASU: The statement expresses what concern they show on the problem. But he has said nothing about the problem of the Eastern Railways, the other sectors of the South Eastern Railways and the sub-urban section of the Howrah division.

In his statement there is nothing except telling that such and such trains in Orissa have been reintroduced. What is that? He has said in his statement that they monitor twice in a year. Who monitors and who are the officers? I would like to know whether they consult the people's representatives at all.

You have a divisional consultative committee. How does that Committee function? Why are the Members of Parliament not consulted? You said that there is a constraint of funds. I cannot think that the mere discussion would require any expenditure. You can ask the Members of Parliament in a railway division. You can sit with them and get their opinion because the Members of Parliament from both the sides, whenever give some opinion regarding some problem, they always look at the problem from differ-

ent sides—from the commuters side, administrative side, railways side and from the revenue side also. But it is never taken. Railways never cares to take the opinion of the MPs. So callous is the attitude of those who are running the affairs. It is a very sad state of affairs. (*Interruptions*)

The interesting thing is that five trains were cancelled in Orissa, in South-Eastern railways, in the recent past. They introduced three trains and one of these trains is Dhauli Express. It was introduced as an Express train. After one week, they converted it into a superfast train. Sir, you know what is the minimum fare of a superfast train. Every person has to pay higher price. They extract money from the passengers.

The trains which are running through Chota Nagpur area have been withdrawn; but no new trains are introduced there. These are the areas where tribals, SC and ST people are living. They are mostly agricultural labourers. You have withdrawn the passenger trains and now you have given a superfast train in lieu of five passenger trains. People will get agitated and an agitation is already going on all over Orissa. Another most serious thing is that although the number of passengers is increasing hundred times yet the number of passenger coaches is coming down. So what amenities can you give if you cannot even increase the number of passenger coaches, rakes, diesel engines and electrify the tracks?

Sir, the train which was running between Howrah and Delhi-Janata Passenger has been withdrawn. Further from the suburban section at Howrah and have withdrawn many trains during Sundays and holidays. I do not know the reason thereof.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. I am calling the next Member.

SHRI ANIL BASU : The salaried people

who go to Calcutta they do not remain in their homes during the holidays. Most of the people go to Calcutta with their families and relations on Sundays and holidays only but during Sundays and holidays you have withdrawn many suburban trains. In the Sealdah-Lakshmik antapur section some trains have been withdrawn and people are getting agitated over it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat now.

SHRI ANIL BASU: You see the problem. There is canal by the name Katkandi on Howrah-Burdwan main line and the Railway bridge at Bhadreswar. The state Government has paid Rs 3 crores as per the estimate of the Railways two years ago. Very slow progress of work is going on there. Now here there is no constraint of money. Money has already been taken from the State Government. Then why is work not progressing there?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat now.

SHRI ANIL BASU: What is the reason for re-scheduling the time-table for Puri-New Delhi train? Neelachal train has become a problem. Members from both sides of the House met Mr. Scindia. We told him regarding the new time-table in respect of Neelachal train. We were told that it would be brought to the previous time-table but it has not been done of far.

There is another problem. Umaidpur Katwa metre gauge line should be linked to broad-gauge. Two trains of the Umaidpur-Katwa line have been withdrawn. They should be restored and linkage of metre-gauge with broad-gauge should be done on this line.

Regarding BD railways, trains have been withdrawn. Only one train is running.

More trains should be introduced. What is the problem? You should tell us.

Regarding extension of railway line from Tarakeswar to Arambagh, your predecessor Minister, presently known as 'Stengun Khan' went to Arambagh, which is my constituency. He told that within a month the railway line will be constructed there. Now the people are agitating about that.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have gone through the statement. Actually, it is the most irresponsible statement that has been made by the Minister. I am quoting one sentence from that:

"Due to constraints of resources, these services could be introduced only by rationalising certain services."

What does it mean? It means that if you want to introduce any service, you have to withdraw another service. Is that your point? You rationalised certain services. I am opposed to this view because this will not actually help the common passengers. It will entail serious problems for the poorer passengers.

Every year, we see that the railway budget is being increased. But for the last five years there are no appointments. So, I think, this attitude should not be there. The train services, which have been withdrawn should be restored.

I am giving some instances. One first-class coach and a second-class three-tier coach were attached to the Darjeeling Mail. The people of that area were happy for that. But those two coaches have been withdrawn recently. As a result, the people of that area are suffering very much.

Another point is about the Sealdah station. I want to tell the Minister that the Sealdah

[Sh. Ajoy Biswas]

dah station is the busiest station in the world. During the last five years, the number of passengers has increased. But the number of trains has not been increased. If you go to the station during the office time, you will see how the office-goers are facing serious problems to reach Calcutta. So, I request the Minister that particularly those trains, which have been withdrawn, should be restored.

You have mentioned only a portion of the South-Eastern Railways. How many trains have been withdrawn from the South-Eastern Railways? You have not mentioned about that in the statement.

16.00 hrs.

You have only mentioned the trains which are running in Orissa; you have not mentioned how many trains have been withdrawn in the Eastern and South-Eastern Railways. You have mentioned about the so-called rationalization of certain services.

Will you change your attitude? If you want to introduce any services, do that, but you must not withdrawn any trains from anywhere, because only that would be helpful for the people of the country.

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI (Bhadrak): Mr Chairman, Sir, I stand to add my voice to the voice of my hon. friends who have already expressed their sentiments on this issue. Though there has been an overall improvement in the Indian railways since independence, and for which we are proud, unfortunately, the authorities, of the Indian railways have not paid any attention to remove the regional imbalances which is the main thrust of our socialism. If sufficient attention had been given to Orissa, with its rich mineral resources, apart from its own economic growth, Orissa would have played a very vital and important role in the eco-

nomic progress of our country. But we the representatives of Orissa and the people there in general, are ashamed to see the position of Orissa in the railway map of the country.

Since my joining as Member of Parliament and taking an oath here, I as also the other hon. Members from Orissa belonging to both the Houses have raised these issues on the floor of the House, in the Consultative Committee, have written letters individually and have met various Ministers in groups, but not much progress has been made. We have raised issues like providing more funds for the on-going project to complete them within the shortest possible time, laying new railways line etc., but no to avail. We have been asking for survey and inclusion in the 7th Plan the Khurda-Bolangi railway lines, which is a very important line. It passes through the district of Phulbani, a very backward district, where there is not an inch of railways. Mostly the inhabitants are scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. As I said, we wanted this to be included in the 7th Plan, but that has not been done.

Then, we have been raising the issue of shifting the South-Eastern railway headquarters or open a branch thereof at Bhubaneswar. As you know, South Orissa is the heart and soul of the South-Eastern Railways. There was a unanimous resolution in the State Assembly requesting the Government of India to shift the South-Eastern railway headquarters to Bhubaneswar, and also provide funds for the projects which have been sanctioned, but nothing has been done.

We have also been requesting for recruitment of youths from Orissa and give employment opportunities to them in the South-Eastern railways, but nothing has happened. Orissa youths are doing extremely well in the all-India competitions, but as compared to others, they are not getting

opportunities to join the South-Eastern Railways. I do not know the reasons. It is perhaps known to the officers. We have also raised questions for introduction of new trains for the convenience of the passengers. All our efforts have been ignored and the interest of Orissa people has been ignored. Instead of introducing new trains, instead of giving special favour to a State like Orissa, the Indian Railways have withdrawn eight Passenger trains. These passenger trains were mostly used by the poor people and weaker sections of the society. Sir, they have withdrawn 203, 204, 215, 216, 331 and 332 w.e.f. 1st November, 1988. Before that they have withdrawn two trains, i.e. 398 and 397. Besides this, four Express trains have also been withdrawn from the South-Eastern railway, i.e. Orissa. These are 37, 38, 79 and 80.

The Link train was the only train which was connecting the backward areas of Orissa, Andhra, Madhya Pradesh to our national capital. The inhabitants of these places are mostly the SC and ST people. This train was introduced in 1978-79. Unfortunately this was also withdrawn some months before.

203 and 204 trains are running since the pre-independence days. It is not that these trains were started just two or three years back. These trains were serving the needs of the weaker sections of the people but these were withdrawn. Mr. Scindia in a reply to 377, said that these trains are not popular trains. I do not know how these trains are not popular. These are running since hundred years and they cater to the needs of the poor people. We do not know how these are not popular. In the same reply, Scindia ji mentioned that we have introduced a group of Express trains which will serve the need of the Orissa people. Some of these Express trains are Guwahati-Trivandrum, Guwahati-Cochine, Howrah-Trivendrum and Howrah-Tirupati. May I know from the Hon. Minister

as to how many stoppages do they have in Orissa. Are you issuing tickets within the distance of 5 km? If it is not, then how do you expect that these will serve needs of Orissa people? So, this is how the railways is looking to the interest of the people of Orissa.

The Commercial Manager in the South Eastern Railway has made a statement that 203, 204 Puri-Howrah passenger trains are cancelled due to the introduction of 21 and 22 Dhauli Express. Do you know, that these 203 and 204 passenger trains were having 76 stoppages and were having a passenger fare but this Dhauli Express is having super-fast fare charges? So, may I know how these common people, poor people will get the benefit out of them?

As regards the timings of the trains, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. I am sorry that Shri Scindia is not here. But Shri Mahabir Prasadji is here and he must remember that in the meeting of Members of Parliament of both Houses from Orissa, regarding the rescheduling of timings, all the MPs requested the Government not to implement the timings as proposed and urged the Minister to see that the timings remain as they were. But I am very sorry to state that all our requests had been kept aside due to the callous and arrogant attitude of the bureaucracy in the Indian Railways.

As you may be aware, there is a wide-spread feeling of anger among the people over the injustice meted out to them by the Indian Railways. I am constrained to say that the authoritative Indian Railways have forced our peace-loving people of Orissa to start a wide-scale agitation and a rail-roko movement and hunger strikes and so on. I am sure the hon. Minister must be receiving many memoranda and representations from various associations from Orissa. Sir, I request the hon. Minister and urge the Government to restore all the withdrawn trains be-

[Sh. Ananta Prasad Sethi]

fore the situation worsens further and takes a violent turn.

I urge the Government to restore the 203/204 Puri-Howrah Passengers; restore 398/397 Puri-Asansol Passengers as day time train in the belt between Bhadrak-Cuttack-Berhampur to start from either end at 7 AM; restore 37/38 Howrah-Madras Janata Express or run 979/980 Howrah-Tirupati Express at the timings of 37/38 and stop at the stoppages of 37/38. I also request the Government to extend the Paradeep-Cuttack Passenger which is remaining idle at Cuttack for ten hours upto Bhadrak.

I also request that there should be a re-scheduling in the timings of the most prestigious trains of Orissa - 915/916 and 175/176 in such a manner that the passengers coming from Orissa are in a position to reach Delhi early in the morning and passengers going from Delhi can leave Delhi at 5.00 PM. These timings will be very convenient and this change will certainly serve the interests of the people.

[Translation]

*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak in Oriya. You are sitting here. You can understand Oriya very well.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak in brief.

[Translation]

*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: I will not take much time of the house, because my friends from Tripura, West Bengal and

Orissa who have preceded me, have given a detained description about the plight of the people following the withdrawal and change of timings of some trains. The people of Orissa, West Bengal and other affected states are now very much in distress on account of this. The Honourable Minister of Railway is also aware of the agitations which were being organised in the State of Orissa and West Bengal.

Sir, a serious situation has arisen following the withdrawal of a number of trains by the Eastern and South Eastern Railways and also due to the introduction of revised timings of trains. This has resulted in inconvenience to the passengers. By this act it appears that proper justice has not been done to the people of Orissa. The rail users depend on 175/176 Neelachal Express and 915/916 Nizamuddin-Puri Express are the most sufferer on account of the revised timings. A strong protest was made by the Chief Minister of Orissa, two Central Ministers from Orissa and the Parliament Members from Orissa and West Bengal against this decision of the Railways. We had pleaded for the suitable revision of train timings and for the re-introduction of passengers trains which have been withdrawn in the State. I would again like to make a fervent appeal to the Honourable Railway Minister; to take immediate steps to fulfil the genuine demands of the people of Orissa. I would like to give suggestions in that regard.

1 - New Delhi - Puri Express and Neelachal Express should leave Puri in the morning and should arrive at new Delhi before evening.

2 - The old timings of 8 Down Puri - Howrah express should be restored.

3 - The Puri - Talcher Passenger train should leave Puri at 6 a.m. instead 4 a.m., i.e.

the departure time

Road-Balugaon)"

4 - The 203/204 Puri-Howrah and Howrah-Puri Passenger trains which have been withdrawn should be re-introduced.

5 - Sir, I welcome the introduction of Dhauli Express and Hirakhond Express between Howrah and Bhubaneswar and Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur respectively. The Hirakhond Express has been subsequently extended to Jharsuguda. It should be made a fast express.

Timings of Dhauli Express should be rescheduled in such a way so that the people of Calcutta can reach at Bhubaneswar before the office hours and the people of Orissa can reach at Howrah at 10 O'Clock and they can attend to the official work at Calcutta. An additional rake should be attached to Dhauli Express.

6 - The Bhubaneswar - Palasa passenger train which has been withdrawn should be re-introduced.

7 - Neelachal Express and New Delhi-Puri Express should have a stoppage at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road.

8 - Kalinga Express should be re-introduced. I hope the Honourable Minister will consider my suggestions sympathetically. With these words I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, before the hon. Minister replies, I want to seek one clarification from him.

In your statement on page 2, under point No. (iv), you have mentioned the following:

"47/48 made to stop at all stations between Khurda

Some hon. Members have already started that next to Balugaon, there is one important station and that is Kalikot. This is in one district. Kalikot is gateway to Ganjam and Phulbani where there is not even an inch of railway line and there is no justification for making this train to stop at all stations from Khurda Road-Balugaon. There is no use of stopping this train at all minor stations. Why not stop this train at Kalikot? A great agitation was going on regarding this. There was a rail roko agitation on this score. It is mainly because you have converted particular express train as a passenger train for a particular station and left important stations. You please reply to this.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank all the hon. Members who participated in the discussion on this calling Attention Motion - (*Interruptions*) - The hon. Members are learned persons. I, therefore, agree with their views and I am grateful to them as I am first a Member and only then a Minister.

Our learned Member, Shri Jena pointed out that the Railway department has discriminated against Orissa. It is true that some of the trains in this region have been cancelled while some changes have been effected in the schedule of some others. The decision of cancellation has taken place only after a detailed discussion on it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: With whom it was discussed?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Acharya ji, you are a wise man. Please listen to me first. I have noted down the views expressed by our hon. Members like Shri Jena, Shri Basu, Biswas ji, Sethi ji, Soren Sahib and above all by our Chairman.

[Sh. Mahabir Prasad]

With the cancellation of 203-204 passenger train running between Puri and Howrah, 35-22 Dhaul Express was introduced and it is a welcome step. But it wouldn't be appropriate to mention that it stops at a fewer stations. As the above mentioned train covered the rail section from Puri to Bhadrak at night, so a new passenger train 461-462 was introduced to operate between Bhadrak and Kharakpur, but ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: These trains were not introduced within 2 or 3 years. They were introduced much earlier, they are there for the last 15 days.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sethi ji, listen to me please. I know that you go furious. But afterwards a train 79-80 was cancelled and 979-980 Tirupati-Howrah fast express was introduced in its place.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What was the reason for the cancellation of the earlier train.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Acharya ji, first you listen to me, please. I would talk to you separately because you did not participate in the discussion. First, I would prefer to reply to those who participated in the discussion.

An Express train 215 up and 216 down was suspended and then cancelled between Palasa and Bhubaneswar beyond Madras. In order to make some alternative arrangements in lieu of the above cancellation, 21 up and 22 DN Dhaul Express from Bhubaneswar to Howrah, 979 UP and 980 DN train from Tirupati to Howrah and train No. K.P.1.

Up and K.P. 2 DN from Puri to Khurda road have been introduced...*(Interruptions)* What I mean to say is that we have introduced shuttle service to meet the requirements of the people. This shuttle service operates between Khurda Road and Puri. Besides, in order to remove the difficulties of people travelling between Bhubaneswar and Balugaon we have extended 47 up and 48 DN express train which was hitherto operating between Sambalpur and Jharsuguda. This train halts at every station. Apart from this, one more pair of train bearing No. J. S. 3 up and JS- 4 DN has been introduced between Sambalpur and Jharsuguda to serve the needs of the people. In spite of all these, I appreciate your sentiments and with the kind permission of the chair I would like to say before the hon. Members of this august House that in order to find an amicable solution to this problem let us sit together and consider the matter. .. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Ura): We held a meeting with you also held talks. We had also given a memorandum but of no avail. We went together and met... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: As many as 40 M.Ps from Orissa and Madhya Pradesh met you, but our meeting did not yield any results *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: I have listened to your views patiently, you may also please listen to my views ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: Immediately after the talks are over, you withdraw one train.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Today you have become a great sympathiser of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, you may please talk to me separately. The Indian Railways considers all aspects and works for the benefits of

all the passengers. There is no such feeling at all in the Indian Railways. It works with a united spirit by treating the entire country as one unit. In reply to the question put by Shri Sethi in which he has alleged that discrimination is being made against Orissa, I can say that I am always with you. If you manage adequate funds for us from the Planning Commission, we are ready to do the needed. *If we get more funds we are prepared to lay more railway lines.* Instead of doing some positive work, if you go on making such allegations, it would not serve any purpose.

[English]

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): We are afraid, that if we talk another train will be withdrawn. That is our apprehension.

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: The more we talk the more trains will be withdrawn.

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The new train introduced by you is a good one.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Achariaji, I understood that this has provided strength to congressmen... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: You are Mahabir, a great warrior, at least you should speak at a low pitch.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

16.30 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Only the Members who have tabled the Calling Attention should speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Please excuse me. I can speak at a more higher pitch than you. I am giving the reply, please listen to me. I am in agreement with the views of the hon. Member but I totally differ on the point that a number of meetings did not yield any results. Because, we have to do everything within the precinct of the rules and in order to arrive at a decision, we have to sit together a number of times. I shall sit with you and officers of the Railway Board will also hold talks with you. We will also exchange views with the Co-ordination Committee which has been constituted for this purpose. Apart from this, we shall hold meetings with the committee which is preparing the time-table of various trains. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: If we go far holding talks, you will withdraw more trains (Interruptions)

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: I would like to submit to the learned hon. Members, Shri Sethi and Shri Jena that whatever problems have been cropped up due to agitation and if there are disparities in any other form, then we will... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the Minister's speech will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: I listened to the views of all the hon. Members and also noted down their suggestions. I also invite more such suggestions from them and as-

[Sh. Mahabir Prasad]

sure them that we will consider all their suggestions and see what could be done if they give them in writing. (*Interruptions*). I shall myself consider all your suggestions provided they are meaningful and conform to the rules. While fully appreciating your sentiments I conclude. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister informed that he is going to consider it ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: As a protest we are walking out of the House.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK: As a protest we are walking out of the House.

Shri Basudeb Acharia, Shri Jagannath Pattnaik, Shri Anil Basu, Shri K.P. Singh Deo, Shri Ananta Prasad Sethi and some other Hon. Members then left the House.

16.35 hrs.

(ii) SAD PLIGHT OF COTTON
GROWERS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO (Vijayawada): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:-

"Sad plight of cotton growers in various parts of the country and the steps taken by the Government to provide relief to them."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Sir, Cotton crop is grown in an area of about 75 lakh ha mainly

in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The production of cotton has risen in the country from 69.5 lakh bales in 1971-72 to a level of 87.3 lakh bales in the year 1985-86, the highest achieved so far. The current year's production is estimated at an all time record of 95 lakh bales not withstanding the natural calamities like flood, excess rainfall and pest attack in some parts of the country.

In order to improve production and productivity of cotton as also its quality, an Intensive Cotton Development Programme has been in operation in the country since 1971-72. Under this Scheme, subsidy is provided on production of quality seeds, laying out demonstration trials, etc. Minimum support price is also fixed by the Government of India every year to ensure a fair price to the growers. As regards its procurement, apart from state level agencies, the Cotton Corporation of India has been procuring cotton at support price in the interest of farmers. The Government is continuously increasing the support price of cotton. The support price during 1985-86 was in the range of Rs. 340 to Rs. 900 per quintal. This has been increased to Rs. 415 to Rs. 960 per quintal during the current year. The procurement operations has already been started by the Cotton Corporation of India and Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation and upto first week of December, 1988, a procurement of 77,000 bales has been reported. Further procurement is going on to ensure that the farmers receive fair price for the crop grown by them.

The reports received from State Governments indicated that a cotton area of about 3.27 lakh ha was adversely affected by floods/heavy rains in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab. These states have been sanctioned input subsidy of Rs. 2.25 crores, Rs. 2.26 crores and Rs. 2.52

crores respectively to be utilised in the affected crop area including cotton crop during the current year.

During the current year, Pest attack on cotton crop has been mainly reported from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab. The area affected was 44%, 17% and 7% in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat respectively. No major pest attack has been reported from other States.

Keeping in view the losses sustained by the cotton farmers of Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh during the last year and to help cotton farmers to combat the menace of heliothis this year, the Government also issued instructions to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh as well as Pest Surveillance Unit of the Plant Protection Directorate to keep strict surveillance over pest attack and take remedial measures in time. Government of India has also permitted the import of effective pesticides like triazophos, lanate etc. to the State of Andhra Pradesh apart from suitably advising the State Governments to ensure proper use of effective pesticides like Endosulfan, Carbaryl, Monocrotophos etc.

To avert the pest incidences and consequent losses to cotton crop growing farmers, a number of steps have been taken by the Government of India, as follows:

- 1) evolving cotton varieties which are tolerant to pests;
- 2) introduction of crop diversification;
- 3) intensification of pest surveillance system;
- 4) introduction of integrated pest management (IPM);
- 5) educating the farmers on the

better use of pesticides; and

- 6) intensification of quality control measures with regard to the pesticides.

In addition, the following special measures have been initiated by Government during the current year to help the cotton growers:

- i) Import of effective pesticides like Triazophos, Lanate, Fenpropethrin and Fluvalinate was permitted. Andhra Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation is importing 44000 liters Methomyl formulation and M/s Hoechst has already imported 8000 liters of Trio-zophos for distribution.
- ii) Excise duty was exempted from 23 indigenously produced intermediaries used for manufacture of pesticides. In addition, customs duty on import of Lanate (Methomyl) has been exempted as special measure this year.
- iii) Strict surveillance measures have been enforced in the endemic areas of cotton pest menace.
- iv) Demonstration of biological control of Heliothis by using Nuclear Polyhydroses Virus (NPV).
- v) Wide publicity is being done through mass media to enable the farmers to undertake effective plant protection measures.
- vi) Farmers have been advised to switch over to crops like Onion, Soyabean and Mustard to arrest further multiplication of pests.

[Sh. Bhajan Lal]

- vii) Reduction of import duty on 15 pesticides from 105% to 70% and also reduction in import duty on raw materials used in the production of pesticides from 147% to 60%.
- viii) Increased provision of Rs. 117 lakhs under the Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) during the current year as against the amount of Rs. 81.7 lakhs released during the preceeding year.

The Government is fully aware of the problems of cotton growers in the country and every possible steps are being taken to mitigate their sufferings and to ensure higher production.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Sir, first of all, I express my deep sense of appreciation to you as well as through you to the hon. Speaker for admitting my Calling Attention on this important subject. Sir, the hon. Minister just now stated the conditions of the cotton growers in different parts of the country. Sir, after the unprecedented drought last year, this year thanks to the rain God, the monsoon is well spread and the cotton production has been very good and it is in heartening scale.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Not production, only plantation.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: No, Sir, last year while it was 19 lakh bales, this year the Cotton Advisory board has estimated that it will be 108 lakh bales. while the East India Cotton Association has assessed that the production may be around 111 lakh bales. This year, fortunately, as Rangaji said, crop extent has gone up and in fact in some States like Andhra Pradesh,

and Rajasthan, the production has also increased more than two-fold. Similarly in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka also including Punjab and Maharashtra, there is a very good progress in cotton production. So, in this context now, with around 18 lakh bales of carry-over stock from last year and about one lakh bales of import in the pipeline and with the present production, it will not be less than 124 lakh bales. Sir, usually the consumption of the mills and others is estimated to be 95 lakh bales and 5.5 lakh bales respectively. That means it will leave a surplus of about 23.5 lakh bales. Even if we take the requirement of the mills for a out two-and-half months which may be around 18 lakh bales, still we will be left with an exportable surplus of 5.5 lakh bales.

Sir, I need not remind you that in our long-term new textile policy, the Government has assured that every year six lakh bales of cotton will be exported. This is very very essential now at this present juncture to export at least five lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton and 50,000 bales of Bengal Beshi. The farmers' representatives from Andhra Pradesh in the Cotton Advisory Board as well as the Punjab Federation, Maharashtra Federation, Gujarat Federation, have all been pleading with the Government and the Board to announce the export quota immediately. But I do not know why the Government did not think it fit to announce the export quota. Even the Chief Minister of the Congress ruied Stated of Maharashtra, Mr. Sharad Pawar, stated that unless growers are supported through exports, they will not realise the reasonable price. But unfortunately the textile industry is very much opposed to this export of cotton and in fact its outgoing President, the Indian Cotton Mills Federation President, Mr. S.K. Modi urged upon the Government to make available cotton at near about support level. He also pleaded that surplus cotton should not be exported, but it should be procured and kept as bufferstock. We can under-

stand, their main objective is they must be able to purchase the cotton at as low a price as possible and bulge their profits. But I do not know why the Government is not coming forward to announce this export quota. If you immediately announce it, it will help the farmers to realise a better and reasonable price. If you delay it, the prices will fall down and ultimately the beneficiaries will be the textile magnates and the textile mills people. So, I would urge upon the Government to immediately announce this export quota in tune with the assurance which they have given in their new export policy.

Three years back I had an opportunity to go in a Parliamentary Delegation led by our Hon. Speaker to Indonesia. When the hon. Speaker and the Delegation Members had some talk with the officials of the Indonesian Government, they said, 'Because there was no guarantee of supply from your country we are not able to give a firm commitment and a firm order. Otherwise we very much like to give order to your country'. This is what they have said. I request the Government to coordinate with the Indonesian Government and try to export cotton.

Also, Sir, my information is that China is interested in the Maharashtra cotton as well as long staple cotton and there is also information that Japan is interested to buy DCH-32 and H-4 varieties provided the level of thrash content is brought down. I submit to the Government to take all necessary steps to contact these governments abroad and see that our Indian cotton is exported on a long-term basis which will help the farmers to realise a higher price. I also suggest to the Government that the Cotton Corporation of India must purchase at prices, not at the support price, but at 20 per cent higher prices, which are higher than the minimum support price. In fact, the Government of Maharashtra has already accepted to purchase the super and fair average quality of kapas at Rs. 120 per quintal more and simi-

larly, for fair quality of cotton they have agreed to purchase at a price which is Rs. 50 more than the support price announced by the Government. So, I do not see any reason why the same thing cannot be adopted by the Cotton Corporation of India while it purchases cotton in other parts of the country because in Maharashtra there is a monopoly procurement scheme whereas in other States the Cotton Corporation is the organisation which is purchasing the cotton from the growers.

Apart from the purchase of cotton, there are some other aspects because of which the farmers, especially the cotton growers are suffering in this country. Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice one thing. You have said in your statement, I am very happy the Government is giving subsidy on production of quality seeds. It is a good thing because without a quality seed, we cannot achieve optimum yield from the crop. But my information is in some States, some firms are marketing cotton seeds. One such incident I have come across from the press report. Some non-fied seeds are supplied in certain parts of Karnataka and certain parts of Andhra. One private limited company Nath Seeds Ltd. Aurangabad has supplied these seeds. Even before they were tested Shivrath brand seeds have been marketed for the last two or three years and because of this, the farmers in Karnataka as well as in some parts of Andhra lost very heavily. I ask the Government, whether it has come to their notice and if so, what action has been taken. In fact, is that not violating the provisions of Cotton Control Act? My submission to the Government is, the present Act does not have to necessary teeth to punish such type of companies. It is true that the responsibility of implementation is with the States. But my submission is, unless some rigid provisions are brought in the form of amendments to the Seed Act, the companies will go away. Can you say that under the present provisions, the company which has cheated

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

the farmers has to pay compensation to the farmers. There is no such provision, I believe. You please consider this aspect and come forward with suitable amendment to the Seed Act to supply best quality of seeds, as per your intention, to the cotton growers of this country.

Regarding pesticides, it is yet another item, on which farmers are losing very heavily. In respect of pesticides also, you will say, the responsibility of implementation rests with the States. But because of certain deficiencies in the Insecticides and Pesticides Act, many a time, these people who are supplying substandard pesticides are going scot free. Many people are not able to be punished effectively. That is why, our State Government asked the Union Government to issue a Control order so that the pesticides item is also brought under the Essential Commodities Act in which case, when the District Collector receives some information, he will be immediately in a position to take some action. The stocks may be seized and the person punished and put behind the bar, which would discourage the people who want to sell substandard pesticides. Along with cotton, there is very good oilseed production because of fine monsoon. As a result of this there is every possibility that this fine crop of oilseed may affect realisation of cotton seed also. This may bring down the price of cotton. My suggestion is, you kindly consider and restrict the import of edible oil from abroad so that Indian farmers will get better price for the oilseeds produce or cotton seed.

At present, in the Cotton Corporation of India, there are representatives of the textile industry only. Are they representatives of cotton growers, cotton cooperatives? In some States, the cotton cooperatives are doing very excellent work. But there is no representation to them in the Cotton Corpo-

ration. Because of this lacuna and deficiency, the Cotton Corporation is able to protect the interests of the industry people rather than the cotton growers or the cooperatives. My suggestion to the Government is, you kindly consider and take necessary steps to include some people who have done very good work in the field of cotton. There are very good cotton growers as well as cotton cooperatives.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the textile policy is not being implemented in letter and spirit. Lungi is one item which is reserved for handloom sector. But even powerloom people are manufacturing this and as a result of that, the handloom weavers of Andhra Pradesh, especially in Guntur and Prakasam districts are suffering a lot, because they are not able to compete and sell lungies.

Now, there is a scheme of Andhra Pradesh to purchase all these dhotis and sarees. Unfortunately, it is also not able to solve the problem of handloom weavers. My suggestion to the Government is to kindly implement the provisions of the new textile policy with all rigidity and see that protection is given to the handloom weavers who are in large number. It is a major work force in this country.

I would also like to repeat my earlier request because somehow I could not convince you and I do not know what are the reasons. Mr. Eduardo Feleiro has been telling this House, "No. We will not accept the waiver of loans." I ask you "Has not Shri Sharad Pawar, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, a Congress-ruled State, waived off nearly Rs. 200 crores of arrears from the farmers? At the same time, the Reserve Bank of India is writing off nearly Rs. 200 crores of loans from the industrialists and from very very big capitalists who, in spite of putting sick industries there, will again start some other industry, taking fresh loan from

the Government and the banks. While our State Government with all its meagre and limited resources was able to write off Rs. 4 crores of interest from the cotton growers due to the cooperatives, why not your Government write off the interest which may be only around Rs. 24 crores? I request the hon. Minister kindly to see from Haryana angle.

My suggestion is unless cotton is also included in the comprehensive crop insurance scheme, there is no final solution to this problem. We cannot expect the Government to come to the help of farmers all the time. But, if you include cotton in the crop insurance scheme, the scheme may take care of it to some extent.

I express my profound thanks on behalf myself, and cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh to the Union Government for permitting the import of Lanata, Fenpiopethrin and Fluvalinate. Agro-Industries Corporation is importing 44,000 litres of Methomyl formulation.

I express my thanks to the Ministry of Economic Affairs who have favourably recommended to the Ministry of Finance to waive off the import duty on these pesticides.

Kindly consider with an open mind all these suggestions made by me. Kindly take immediate steps to take care of the problems that are being experienced by the cotton growers.,

With these words, I thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was listening to the statements made by the hon. Minister about the cotton growers with rapt attention. He made no mention of the steps that have been taken to mitigate the sufferings of the

farmers in Prakasham and other districts in Andhra Pradesh. It is a good thing that he has increased the support price of cotton. When we think of India, it is farmer who comes first in our mind. Our country is a land of the farmers. The farmers in this country, whether they are cotton growers or sugarcane producer, often fall victims of the natural calamities. sometimes they suffer losses due to floods and sometimes by drought. As a result of this, our economy gets destabilised. Today we are holding a discussion on the plight of the cotton growers. In this connection I would like to say that cotton is grown mainly in Andhra Pradesh, the other states falling in line are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Punjab. The farmers of Andhra Pradesh thought that they could improve their economic condition by raising production. The expert opinion was that if the farmers of Andhra Pradesh take to cotton cultivation, it will bring substantial change in their economic condition. The experts have recommended that:

[English]

The economy of cotton cultivation was such that it made a lot of farmers in Andhra Pradesh wealthy. No wonder, many tobacco growers took to cotton. But, successive droughts, mono-cropping, soil degeneration, overlapping of fertilisers and pests have all combined to make life miserable for them."

[Translation]

But what happened there. What happened when the people abandoned tobacco cultivation. This resulted in mono-cropping and the problem of soil degeneration arose. I would, therefore, like to make an appeal to the hon. Minister that whenever a scheme for a particular area is formulated to make improvement in agriculture produce, whether it is cotton, tobacco or any other

[Sh. Ramswaroop Ram]

cash crop, local scientists should be directed to go those areas and apprise the farmers that such and such crops will yield more benefits and such and such crops will be disadvantageous in particular areas. Besides, soil testing laboratories have been set up in various parts of the country. But Sir, through you, may I know from the hon. Minister if these laboratories apprise the farmers with the results of the tests as to what crops will be advantageous for them when they take samples for test. I have never heard that soil of a particular area was tested and the farmers of that area were informed through any mass media, advertisement or in any other form that such and such crops would be suitable to them. I want that these arrangements should be made at such places.

Provisions have been made for extending various facilities to the farmers and of course the farmers should get these facilities but I want to draw the attention of the Government to one particular point in this matter. I want that a survey should be conducted of these areas where the soil is black which is favourable for cotton cultivation and where the yield can be improved. For example, such tests can be conducted in my constituency. After the tests are conducted, cotton cultivation should be encouraged which will benefit both the farmers and the country. The Crop Insurance Scheme had been launched for providing relief to the farmers at the time of natural calamities. This scheme was approved by this House 3 years ago but it has been seen that the farmers are not getting the desired relief under this scheme. God knows as to where this scheme has been kept. Farmers are actually not aware of it and they are not getting any benefits out of it. If a motorcycle is involved in an accident, irrespective of the fact whether it is a major or a minor one, due compensation is provided at once. But in this

huge country which is considered to be the land of farmers and where 80 percent people are dependent on agriculture, if crops are ruined due to natural calamities like floods, drought etc., no assessment is made and no compensation is granted. It is our misfortune that a popular scheme like the Crop Insurance Scheme is not helping farmers in improving their financial position. Although this scheme has been launched at the district level but assessments of damage are not made anywhere. Thousands of acres of our land is washed away by floods every year irrespective of the fact whether it is sugarcane, paddy, cotton or any crop. I do not think this system as useful. I want to request that all the points should be covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme as it is only then that the farmers of the country will be benefited in the real sense. It is true that the Cotton Corporation procure the entire cotton produced in the country and the farmers do get remunerative prices wherever there are Government agencies. The fact, however, remains that when the farmers go to sell their produce in the market the middlemen do come in and compel them to sell cotton at this or that rate. Since the poor farmers cannot wait and stay there for three or four days in the market they have to sell their cotton at cheap rates.

Therefore, godown facilities should be provided in every block wherever cotton and jute markets are located so that the farmers are able to store their goods and are saved from exploitation by middlemen.

It is, therefore, requested that crops must be insured and godown facilities be made available at every market for the benefit of the farmers.

[English]

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY
(Visakhapatnam): Sir, let me, at the outset,

extend my full support to the various points raised by our learned colleague Shri V.S. Rao who has specialised the subject on kisan and as an active participant of the Kisan Movement he has fully studied the problem and has explained it in very clear categorical and analytical terms the actual requirement of the cotton growers as they stand today.

I tried to carefully go through the various measures initiated by the Government during the current year to help the cotton growers. But then, may I point out respectfully to the Minister that it has not at all improved? Any positive relief measure to the cotton growers who are actually in an agro-climatic zone will be welcomed. It is well-known that they had committed suicide. And there is no other go for them but to take the extreme step of putting an end to their lives because they are not able to face the hardships of life in view of the wholesale and colossal loss that they had during the recent times. That being so, I would like to urge on the Minister to declare moratorium on the repayment of debts, arrears together with interest and also reschedule the loan spreading it over for a period of 12 years so that they may be able to conveniently discharge the debts. This is urgently required. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for the cotton growers. We have to come to their rescue.

One more thing. The Government is charging compound interest which is highly disgusting. One cannot understand why the financial institutions and commercial banks are charging compound interest. I would only urge that only simple interest may be charged from the cotton growers and nothing more than that. Not only that. Whenever the interest exceeds the principal amount, only principal amount may be charged from them and not any amount exceeding the principal amount and rest of the interest must be waived. Necessarily, the Government should take such measures.

One more step which the Government should urgently take so as to provide necessary relief to the cotton growers, particularly in Andhra Pradesh at the moment is that the gold which is deposited in the commercial banks, is being subjected to auction now. Immediately instructions should be issued by the Government to various commercial banks that the gold mortgaged by these cotton growers should not at all be auctioned. Other steps may be taken in due course in the light of the revised instructions which the Government may be pleased to communicate to them.

As far as bad debts are concerned, in respect of various banks, in various industrial units which have fallen sick about Rs. 5000 crores are held up. What is the Government doing now. We are now asking to waive it. It is a very small amount, a paltry amount of Rs. 5000 crores which is blocked up in industrial units. Therefore, it is necessary for the Government to take steps.

Another point which was also stressed by my friend Shri V.S. Rao is this both tobacco and cotton crops should be brought within the insurance cover otherwise it is very difficult for them to be able to survive so that automatically the rest of the help would also come to them. They should do it instead of making a lot of hue and cry.

One other step which is necessary and incumbent on the Government to take is to see what are the loopholes in the existing law which have got to be plugged. You will have to adopt a stringent method so as to see that adulteration does not take place as far as fertilizers and pesticides are concerned. As far as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are concerned, necessary steps should be taken.

Finally, I will draw the attention of the Minister to the recent statement that NABARD in some States including the State of

[Sh. Bhattam Srirama Murty]

Andhra Pradesh and of course in the State to which the Minister belongs in not extending any more loan facilities. They have with-held it for obviously no reasons. It is not proper and they must not do that.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, it ranks first among the various States which are growing cotton. The best variety of cotton is grown in Andhra Pradesh. Cotton is grown there is about five lakh acres and about 20 lakh bales are being produced there. But now they are in very bad state because of the serious natural calamities, they are hard put to and therefore necessary relief measures should be extended to them.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MANEMMA ANJIAH (Secunderabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, large quantities of cotton have been destroyed in my area of Hamlabad. The same has happened in Prakasam district where farmers have even gone to the extent to committing suicide. In view of the miserable condition existing there, I want to know as to what steps are being taken to provide relief to the farmers there?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members have drawn the attention of the Government to a very important matter for what I am very grateful to them. The issues which have been raised by the hon. Members are very important and as you know these are related to the farmers. Farmers are the backbone of this country and as such maximum possible assistance should be provided to them. The Government has always tried to take all possible steps for their welfare.

Rao Saheb has stated that there has been a record production of cotton this year

and as it is surplus it should therefore be exported. I want to inform him and other hon. Members that there are no two opinions that there has been a bumper production of cotton this year. But at some places due to the floods, cotton production has suffered a set back but despite that we will have a record production of cotton this year. As per the figures available with us, 95 lakh bales of cotton will be produced this year. The maximum production so far has been 83 lakh bales. According to the opinion of some people, this figure can go upto one crore.

As you are aware, we imported one lakh cotton bales last year, but this year the question of import does not arise. We shall make efforts to export the surplus cotton so that the farmers are able to get remunerative price for their produce.

Some hon. Members have stated that some companies are not in favour of exports. There is no question of what companies say. It, however, depends on production and demand within the country and only when indigenous demand is fulfilled that the surplus will be exported. The question of a company or an agency not allowing the Government to export surplus cotton does not arise. This is so because it is linked with the interest of the farmer. If the Government exports goods, we will get foreign exchange and the farmer too will produce more if he gets remunerative price.

Besides, as you said other countries are also ready to buy to cotton. There are no two opinions about it. Indonesia, China and other nations too buy cotton from India.

You have also submitted that C.C.I. is not purchasing cotton at the support price. Till now, the price of none of the varieties of cotton is below the support price in our country. The Central Government fixes the price of at least 40 varieties as support price. The price of no variety has ever gone

below the support price. The price of every variety has been higher than the support price. This is true that a week ago, the price had come some what closer to the support price. For example, we had fixed Rs. 600 as the support price for cotton and the market price went down to Rs. 650 but during the last one week, it has risen to Rs. 725. What I mean to say is that the price of not even a single variety has come to the level of support price nor has it gone below that level. We shall not let the price fall below the support price at any cost and if this happens, then C.C.I. the Central Government and other agencies will come forward to procure it so that the farmer could get the price fixed by the Central Government in any case...
(Interruptions)

You are aware that there is no ban on the movement of cotton in India and anyone can transport it to any part of the country. There is no restriction in this regard for the business class. You know that competition among the buyers keeps the price at a reasonable level. Support price itself implies that the farmer should not get low price for his produce. Support price signifies that if the price falls below that level, then the Government will intervene and procure it so as to enable the farmer to get at least that much price.

Regarding the support price, you have submitted that the farmer is not consulted at the time of its fixation. I had submitted last time also that three representatives of the farmers are associated with the process of fixing the support price, irrespective of whether it is cotton, oilseeds, paddy, wheat or anything else. This true that C.C.I. is an independent corporation and no representative of the farmers is there in it because as you know it procures cotton as per their own assessment. But it is the Central Government which fixes the price and for this purpose we have Agriculture Prices Commission which submits report to the Central

Government regarding the price to be fixed for a commodity. However, we not only accept their report, but also give a higher price to the farmers than the one suggested by them in the report.

Besides, you have mentioned about a company...

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Support price itself is very low. That is the problem.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: As I submitted just now the market price is higher than the support price. If the market price falls below the support price only then the hon. Member can say that it is even lower than the support price fixed by the Government. If it happens, then he is justified in saying that there is no use of Government fixing than the support price. At present the price is higher and not lower than the support price. He can complain if it is lower.

Besides, he also mentioned about a company in Aurangabad which did not supply the right insecticide. The Central Government wrote to the State Government when it came to its notice. The State Government handed over the matter to C.I.D. and the latter is investigating into it. The Government has not yet received its report. You know that the State Government has to take action on it and the Central Government has given it proper instructions to do so.

The hon. Members also submitted that a law should be enacted to deal with matters regarding seeds. An Act is already there which has a provision to take action against the person who indulges in adulteration, mixing or supply of substandard seeds. The Act has provision even for imprisonment. The Government conducts a thorough in-

[Sh. Bhajan Lal]

vestigation in case there is any complaint from any quarter. There is a law for everything whether it is pesticides, fertilizers of seeds so that no one is able to supply sub-standard goods.

Another point which they raised was about the farmers' produce. This is true that there will be a record production of oilseed this time. So far, the highest production of oilseeds in our country has been 120-122 lakh tonnes, but this time the production is expected to go upto 155-156 lakh tonnes. You know that one third of the total edible oil is extracted from oilseeds. This year the oilseeds are expected to yield - 50-52 lakh tonne of oil and, in my view, the present oil consumption in our country is 54 lakh tonne. Our effort will be to import the least quantity of oil so that our farmers growing oilseeds including groundnut and cotton-oil is extracted from cotton seeds also could get a remunerative price for their produce. It will be our earnest endeavour to reduce our edible oil imports by half or even more as compared to the last year. Thus the Government will import the least quantity of edible oil so that our farmers could get a reasonable price.

The hon. Members also pleaded in favour of waiving the loans. They mentioned the case of Maharashtra in this regard. I have talked to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra who told me that he did not waive any loans. He wondered how all this got published in the newspapers. He said that the people who were unable to repay the loan for a long time have been given the facility to repay in instalment spread over a period of 10-12 years instead of recovering it in lump sum. Similarly, the rate of interest has also been reduced because the loan pertains to back years. You, perhaps, remember that when the hon. Prime Minister visited Andhra Pradesh to review the drought and flood

situation, the Central Government also decided to give concessions to the affected people in the form of waiving compound interest in case the interest exceeded the principal amount. Not only this, the loan will be recovered in easy instalments spread over a period of 7 to 10 years. Thus, we have tried to give maximum concession to the farmers. It is very difficult to write off the entire loan.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO: Outstanding interest dues should be waived.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Regarding the outstanding loan, you know that a farmer should pay it in time if he has not been affected by drought or flood. If due to drought or successive floods, the farmer is unable to repay the loan, then the hon. Members can say that some concession should be given. However if everything is all right and the crop is being harvested in time, then the loan due should be paid by the farmer in time. Otherwise, how can it go on like this? Of course, if due to certain reason he is unable to repay, some concessions have been given and as I submitted just now... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY:
When the interest exceeds the principal amount, that should be waived.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Yes, interest will be waived in areas hit by drought and flood. Another point raised was that of crop insurance, which is very important. Hon Members are aware that a scheme regarding crop insurance is already there but some difficul-

ties have cropped up in it at present. As I submitted earlier also, meeting for this purpose have been held in the past too and the Hon. Prime Minister wants that some way should be evolved so as to cover all the crops, irrespective whether they are cash crops or otherwise. Besides, we want that a way should be evolved to cover all the farmers. As per the present provision only those farmers are covered who take loans and not the rest of the farmers. Therefore, we want that all the farmers should be covered. A meeting for this purpose is being held shortly. It is our endeavour that a decision in this regard is taken by the next kharif crop and we would like that cotton, sugarcane and all other crops and we would like that cotton, sugarcane and all other crops should be covered and all farmers irrespective of whether they take loans or not should be brought under this scheme. We are not very sure at present about the extent to which we will succeed in our efforts but we are making all out efforts from our side to cover all of them.

Shri Rao wanted to know as to how crop disease spread in Guntur and Prakasam districts. It is true that the disease has hit those areas but my department has made all efforts to check it and these efforts are continuing. So, far as soil testing and other facilities to the farmers for raising cash crops are concerned, I would like to inform that 10 to 30 Soil Testing Laboratories have been set up for this purpose in every State and adequate resources have been provided therefor. Therefore, soil testing can be got done there itself. Our farmers have also awakened now. They are not that much ignorant that they will not get the soil testing done. The whole country has been divided into 15 zones. The country's farmers will be informed as to the type of crop that should be sown in a particular climatic condition. Tips on the quantity of fertilizer and type of insecticide to be used are already being given as a result of which agricultural productivity has

increased. Apart from this a bigger step is proposed to be taken. The entire country has been divided into 15 zones. Crops would be sown according to the climatic condition, availability of water and type of soil in each zone.

Similarly, the type of soil available to cotton-growers was discussed. The Government keeps the farmers posted on the results of soil tests. The Agricultural Department, I.C.A.R. and the University have contributed largely towards providing full information to farmers. It is as a result of keeping the farmers fully informed that agricultural productivity in the country is increasing. It is true that the information given to farmers is insufficient. Books and theoretical knowledge alone cannot be useful. Theory and demonstrations should go together. If this is not done the information given to farmers will remain incomplete.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: Demonstrations should be given at the tehsil level.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Such demonstrations are given at the block level and not the 'tehsil' level. But I feel that such demonstrations should be given at more places. The Government will make all possible efforts in that direction. I also spoke on the subject of crop insurance. It was mentioned that due to the presence of middlemen in the C.C.I., farmers are unable to get remunerative price for cotton. The question of middlemen is not relevant to this matter. This is because cotton is sold in the market through out auction. Traders compete among themselves to buy the cotton. There are no irregularities in the process. Farmers do not complain if their produce is sold at low rates during the harvest period and at high rates thereafter. A decision has been taken on a trial basis wherein farmers in the 14 states which produce the maximum foodgrains, can hypothecate their foodgrain to the bank and seek a loan against it, just as a trader

[Sh. Bhajan Lal]

hypothecates his asset to the bank and seeks a loan to the extent of 80% of the value of that asset. This is a new scheme introduced by the Government. One district has been selected in every State. I want to tell hon. Shri Rao that this includes Andhra Pradesh and Bihar also. All the 14 States which produce foodgrains are also included. One district has been selected in every State and a pilot project has been started so that the persistent grievances of the farmers are redressed. As the farmer can hypothecate his foodgrains to the bank to seek a loan, he can sell his stock of foodgrains whenever he desires. This scheme has been started from the 1st of December. I request the hon. Members to give wide publicity to this scheme so that the farmers can be fully benefited. Hon. Shri Rama Murty raised a point regarding long-term loans. As I said before long-term loans have been given. I have already spoken on capital interest and on insecticides. Floods were also mentioned during the discussion. Rules have been made for charging interest and if the rules are not followed then we cannot do anything. Along with this I can say that ...

[English]

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY. Why don't you make a rule that only a simple rate of interest would be charged from the farmers and not compound interest?

17.28 hrs

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I have said that simple interest is charged from farmers. How can concessions be given to a farmer, who takes a Rs 10,000/- loan for a three year period and has no intention of paying back

despite there being no flood or drought? The Government certainly gives concessions in cases where crops have been destroyed due to flood, drought or disease. The Central Government is sympathetic towards the farming community. It tries to help the farmers in every possible way so that they get appropriate prices for their produce

With these words I thank you.

[English]

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Government should desist from auctioning the gold which is mortgaged by the farmers. That is now the practice in vogue. That creates a great hardship for these people.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Discussions on this point have been held on a number of occasions. The Hon Prime Minister also made an announcement that the gold and jewellery kept with the banks by farmers will not be auctioned. Auctioning of those items has been prohibited and the farmer can get the items released as and when he has the money. There is no question of the things getting auctioned.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Sir, I would like to have one important clarification. I would like to know when will the Government announce the export quota which will help the farmers. By which date the Government will announce the export quota?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Shri Rao let me tell you that this year also there would be record production of cotton in our country as has been happening almost every year in the

past. After retaining whatever is needed for domestic consumption, the Government will try to export the rest.

MR. SPEAKER : It should be exported.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: We will do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Indigenous cotton should also be exported.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I agree with you.

DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 193

17.30 hrs

[English]

(I) Dismal Performance of Indian Sportsmen in the Seoul Olympic Games—Contd.

SHRI. C. MADHAV REDDY (Adilabad): Sir, I would like to suggest that the Item no. 18 can be deferred and we can take up item No. 19.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : First let us have the reply to the discussion on the Olympic Games.

[English]

I think she is waiting for quite a long time. I have got only half an hour.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Shri, Shri Deo has gone to Seoul. So, we would like to hear him.

MR. SPEAKER: I have got only half an hour. Yes, Mr. Deo.

SHRI INDARJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Sir, you can have 15 minutes for this and 15 minutes for the other item.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it so? All right then 5 minutes for Mr. Deo and 10 minutes for her.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I would...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak for five minutes.

[English]

This is an order, you cannot question.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): It is rather heartening to see the concern of both the Press, public and Parliament in the standard of sports in our country which is reflected by the attendance in this House where a quorum had to be called. Today, the performance in the sports field is a status symbol of a nation's quality and standard.

Sir, this was the first full Olympics after 1976 when the Africans boycotted. In 1980, the Western group boycotted and in 1984 the Eastern block boycotted. 160 out of 167 nations took part for 237 gold medals, 237 silver medals and 260 bronze medals, with 13,400 athletes taking part

This was the Olympic where the old reputations were shattered, new ones established; new stars made and unmade in a short time, where individual glory and national pride resulted in the best performance and the worst shape, where no limits of excellence, motivated and fortified by steroids and doppings, took place; where an awesome collection of stars and robots like perfection took place. The biggest casualty and the only casualty was amateurism and this is the result of the changing times. Today, the professionalism has come to stay and is the order of the day. Scientific man-

[Sh. K.P. Singh Deo]

agement of our sports persons holds the key.

Sir, it is in this background that we have to see our performance. What was the aim? What was the aim for sending 47 athletes and 19 officials to the greatest sports extravaganza of this century? Sir, the aim to my mind— I am sorry I have to sound discordant note with my hon. colleagues here was based on the Operation Excellence by the Government as enunciated on the 16th February, 1988 where Government took a conscious decision along with consultation with the Indian Olympics Association and the National Federation that they will prepare teams which will be scientifically selected by a Selection Committee and after three to four years of training they will have a short term, an immediate and long term perspective. Sir, I would humbly submit and I would like to give an anecdote here, an incident which took place in 1981 in the World Championship in Munich. A group of School boys lost to the Soviet Union in the finals of a two kilometre race by just four feet and they were happy. Their coach pulled them up and said, "You stupid fellows, your target is 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games and not 1981 World Championship." If I may reiterate humbly, our aim is 1990 Asian Games in Beijing and our aim was not 1988 Olympic Games. In this 1988 olympics, from our country four disciplines—hockey, tennis, table tennis and shooting got included on their own international standards and they did not have to qualify. Therefore, our performance should be assessed from this perspective. Also, we sent a token boxing team which has covered itself with glory. But for an unlucky injury, we would probably have won a medal. In weight lifting, one of our boys has improved on the Commonwealth Games record. The most controversial team, the girl athletic team, you would be happy to know, had proved itself beyond

doubt and although it came last in the heats, it is the best team in Asia. Once again, I would like to say that scientific training and scientific management means that they must reach a peak at time when they are expected to. It is not like a ticket-vending machine or an instant coffee machine where you just punch in something and the ticket comes out.

There has also been some criticism about favouritism in the selection. I would like to say with all emphasis at my command and without the fear of contradiction that the selection, for the first time, was done on scientific lines and I must compliment the hon. Minister, the Secretary and the Director General of the Sports Authority of India and sports authorities for having cleared the team in a record time of one hour.

Before I conclude Sir, I would like to reiterate here that population has got nothing to do with medals or performance. It has to be determination, it has to be a continuous and dedicated effort. You must pick the children from the school as the German Democratic Republic does. They pick up young children at the age of seven. If they do not find them suitable from their profile, they will be sent to ordinary schools and those who are suitable are kept in the sports schools. Also, every two years, their performance is assessed.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will conclude with a quotation from Shakespeare from the funeral speech of Mark Antony:

"Friends, Romans and Countrymen,
Lend me your ears.
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them,
The good is oft interred with their bones."

Sir, only last year, we had put P.T. Usha on top. Let us not denigrate and demoralise the sport-persons by saying certain things here which will affect them psychologically and which will affect our sports. Our sports-person have credited themselves well by their performance in Seoul.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Mr. Speaker Sir, I do not know how much time you are going to give to me. I have listened to the debate in this House which lasted for more than six hours. And now I am told that I should finish replying within eight or ten minutes. I do not think is very fair.

MR. SPEAKER : As the saying goes, brevity is the soul of wit;

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Not when so many things have been said rather unfairly at times. I would just like to say that I am not, therefore, going into the details of all the points made by different speakers. I have to just put them together. I can say only this. A number of questions have already been answered by the Chef-de-Mission.

I want to make two things very clear. There was no favouritism in selection. Secondly, the selection was made on the basis of standards which have been jointly set by the Government, the Indian Olympic Association and the Federations. If somebody comes back and says that the Government has bungled, well, I can only say that they do not know what they are talking about.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: We would like to hear about the Federations. Nobody blames the Government.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: We blame the Government.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Well you blame everything under the Sun.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : If you are going to take away my time, how can I finish in ten minutes?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why are you derailing the whole thing? Let her reply.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I just want to remind the House that the only individual medal won after Independence in the Olympics in the year 1952 was a Bronze.

After that we have never won a single medal at Olympics - an individual medal.

To say suddenly today that we must reach the top is expecting too much. I can only say that whatever has happened now, we are on the right lines as far as scientific training and preparations for the future are concerned. It is only now that a serious and scientific look at sports training has taken place and I want to say which I have said in the House before that the National Centre of Excellence for Sports which is essentially for competitive international sports has been established at Bangalore. The Soviet experts are with us. They are helping us with the training, with sports techniques and also for monitoring. Five of the experts are with us. Seven more are expected and under their guidance, we really are trying to recast many of our techniques and many of our systems for international competition. Sports today is not something which can be past time or an extra-curricular activity. If you want results, it has to be full time training and participation. But we had one Centre of Training At Patiala, for 25 years. We have six in the country for the last three years.

We are also going in for selection of

[Smt. Margaret Alva]

certain disciplines. In the past, we were trying to compete in every discipline. We have now selected 12 priority disciplines for competitions- for national participation. These twelve are the only discipline where we will scientifically get involved in training and participation and four had been kept as subsidiary disciplines. I also want to say what we said in 1986. We have launched a four year term of training plan which will show results only in the course of four years i.e. by 1990. We did go to the Olympics this time. It was a participation as a country and if the selection.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : This is an after-thought. After your teams had done badly, you are saying this.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : It is not an after-thought. You can say so, I wanted to judge from the fact that the selection criteria which had been set initially by the Federation, the IOA and the Government was for the Sixth Place in the last Olympics. That was the criteria set knowing that this was the standard available. How could we expect Gold or silver medals when we are talking of the Sixth place? We had a choice between participation and no exposure. But exposure in international participation is part of the training. We have to see where we stood I must say one point about Hockey which has been discussed so much. I want to point out that when we went to the Olympics, India was ranked international as Eleventh. I want to say that in this Olympics, with the training, we have reached the Sixth place. In Asia we were the Third. We are now ranked Second. I am only saying that we are in the process of moving. I am not saying that we are on the top. Somebody from the Opposition said that this is the worst performance and the Minister should go. I do not mind their saying that.

I would like to point out that if I talk

statistically, the lowest position in the Asian Games was reached in 1978 when the Janata Party was in power. What are you talking about today? You blame the Government. I am only saying, don't keep mixing politics with the Government's responsibility. We are talking about national honour irrespective of which Government or who is doing what.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : But why don't you blame the Federation?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Secondly I want to point out that in the First Five Year Plans in this country, the total allotment for sports had been Rs. 11.60 crores. In the Sixth Plan you gave sports Rs. 13 crores. It is after Mr. Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister and the Minister for Sports that it went up to Rs. 20 crores in 1986. We have had only three years of the new budget in which the infrastructure is being created, equipment is being imported, artificial tracks and surfaces are being laid and the necessary emphasis for developing sports has started. But as I said earlier, we need or rather we have already got foreign coaches. We have got all the necessary equipments (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : If you don't want to listen to the replies, then there is no point in anybody giving replies.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Why are you giving away the Indira Gandhi Stadium?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : We are not giving away the Indira Gandhi Stadium. About the complex there which was meant for a hotel, it been decided that it should be converted into a hospital. It is not by me, but it was done earlier.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Why don't you talk about Federations which have erred? The Government is getting a bad name

because of the bad job being done by the Federations. They are not selecting properly. They are not training people properly. It is their job, not the Government's. As far as the federations are concerned, they claim autonomy as registered bodies...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why should you agree to that ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Last year, we brought the guidelines known as the Operation Excellence, so that certain selection criteria could be there, and national selection committees have been set up for the first time, bringing in the federations, the IOA, the coach, a former international player and an Arjuna Awardee and a representative of the Government to make it a national...

MR. SPEAKER : If we can amend the Constitution, can we not make amendments there also? You say, they are autonomous bodies...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Even last year, when there was this debate, the House had asked that we should take steps to see that some kind of control on federations and on registered sports bodies should be brought in. We have come in with the proposal to bring Sports on the Concurrent List, so that there can be an all-India legislation on Sports...(*Interruptions*) Unfortunately, even that is being sought to be politicised ...

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: They should be accountable to you.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I want to say that it is not something new. We have brought legislation from from about 26 countries: socialist, democratic, all types of different systems, in which coach development has been directed by an the central legislature or of Parliament. This is what we have

sought to do, and we have introduced a Bill for bringing it on the Concurrent List. I would request all the Members to support this, so that we can come up with some kind of an all-India legislation. I can only say this, that all that has been suggested in the debate—I have no time, Sir, since you are already asking me to sit down—selecting children under the age of twelve, selecting talent from special areas and giving them the necessary coaching in sports schools, have all been launched.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay take note of them.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I can hope that whether I am there or not, in the next two years, you will see the result of what we have done. Thank you.

17.47 hrs

(II) **Damage due to cyclone in the States of West Bengal, Orissa and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Kumari Mamata Banerjee: Only five minutes to you. Summarize what you want to say.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: (*Jadavpur*): Okay, Sir.

Recently, a big cyclone has devastated West Bengal, Andaman- Nicobar and parts of Orissa. More than 500 people have died, 800 fishermen are still missing and 55,000 cattle were lost. Forty per cent of the crop are has been totally damaged. I went to visit some areas, especially in the South 24-Parganas, Sunderban areas, Gosaba, Basanti, Namkhala, Bokhali, Kuli and other areas. I also know that some areas in Mr. Indrajit Gupta's constituency have been affected to the maximum extent. People have totally lost their homes.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am grateful that according to the instructions of the Prime Minister... *(Interruptions)* . Why are you disturbing ? Only five minutes have been given to me.

MR. SPEAKER : Don't interrupt the gentle lady here. Be chivalrous

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You are going to visit the place. You have given the commitment that whatever you can do from the Central Government, you will do. I want to make a request to you: the people there now need immediately, polythene, tarpaulin sheets, medicines, bleaching powder and milk powder. I would like to suggest that you send immediately a Central team to assess the extent to which property and lives have been lost there, because no proper assessment has been made so far. Secondly, you should give adequate funds to the State Government, so that the affected people can get some relief from the Central Government. But I would like to say that you should involve the MPs concerned—M.Ps whose constituencies are actually affected. You should involve all these MPs—whether they are from this side or that. Through them, you can spend this money for the affected people.

You have already called for an all-party meeting, and then you have told them that you will involve the members of all the political parties in this relief work. I want to know what is the progress made in this regard.

Thirdly, you know that there is scarcity of water there. People have lost their houses, and the lives of their kith and kin. Damage to property has been caused. People are now totally helpless.

So, I would like to request you to consider waiving of their agricultural loans. The loans which they have taken from the banks, which have to be repaid, may be waived. Because the people there are totally helpless. Those areas are totally damaged. Also, you should think of giving them agricultural loans for the next crop. Otherwise those people will not be able to plan their new crop.

I do not want to give more details, because I want Shri Indrajit Gupta to speak on this matter.

I would only like to make an appeal. When there was an earthquake in Armenia—which is a big earthquake—Mr. Gorbachov who was at the United Nations at that time, immediately returned to Armenia. I do not want to make any political speech here. But I would only want to request Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Shri Basudeb Acharya to request their Chief Minister to visit the affected area, because it will be a good gesture, after all.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Sir, I have to race against the clock.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, five minutes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: This is the most unprecedented cyclone that we have ever seen in this part of the country and it has not only devastated parts of the North 24 Paraganas and South 24 Paraganas districts, but after that it has turned and gone to Bangladesh, and caused a great deal of devastation there also. I am speaking with particular reference—you will understand me—to where the cyclone turned.

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji has already mentioned it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It came; over from the Bay of Bengal, went North, and turned into Bangladesh. In that place where it has turned unfortunately situated is, one

block, Shingalganj of my constituency which has been absolutely devastated.

The hon. Minister was good enough to fly by helicopter over that area for a short while and he has seen something from the air. But I must tell him that unless you go on the ground and walk through these areas and these villages, you cannot have an idea of the extent of the calamity that has taken place. What is required now is a massive operation, a joint operation, by the State and the Central Governments, for relief and rehabilitation of those people. About 500 people have been killed, thousands of cattle have perished, about 55,000 cattle have perished, about 800 fishermen who were out at sea, who live in this area, have not come back; they are missing. There is no drinking water available. The ponds from which people draw their drinking water normally are all contaminated now. The people who have somehow managed to survive the cyclone are likely to die because of lack of water or poisoned water. So, some special emergency measures have to be taken to supply drinking water to these people, whether it is by boring wells which will take some time, or supplying water through boats and all that. That is being done, I may tell you, from the opposite side of the river, by people from Bangladesh. You should know that. The people from Bangladesh are bringing big tankfuls of water by boats and are trying to help these people on this side. We appreciate very much this gesture of good neighbourliness from the other side. Houses have been destroyed by thousands.

The Government has said—we were present at the meeting together in Raj Bhavan in Calcutta the other day—that Rs 500 will be given to every family for rebuilding their house! Rs. 500 where a single piece of bamboo is costing Rs 40 now! With Rs. 500 people are expected to rebuild their houses! So, this is the fantastic thing and I would request the Government to enhance it. They

say that this is the sum, or norm which is fixed, this amount of Rs 500. If it is a norm, then all I can say is that some way should be found under some other head, by which this amount can be increased. Otherwise these people will die. That is all. Whole villages have been just lifted up in the air by the cyclone and thrown two miles, three miles away. There is no trace left of them at all. People have lost everything. All the primary schools have been destroyed. Some of the high schools which were in *pucca* buildings have been shattered also. The students have lost all their books and papers and everything. Examinations are coming. Therefore, in such a situation the cattle also which have survived will die without any fodder. There is no fodder of any kind.

Therefore, you can understand the extent of the calamity and the dimensions which are required of a big relief operation in order to save these people and the cattle and everybody. Therefore, I am told that the Central team has not gone yet but it is expected to go after a few days. Then it will go round then it will come back, then it will submit its report, then the Central team will make up its mind, then some money will be sanctioned. The state Government has asked for Rs 52 crores and they have sent a detailed memorandum to the Government on the 9th of this month. So, I would like to know from the Minister he has only five minutes to speak—how they are going to move quickly in this matter.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : (Diamond Harbour): Please allow me one minute, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : What can you say in one minute?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It concerns my constituency also, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : That has already been said. What does it matter? Say what it is.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, the Minister had met us on 6th of December and on 7th he made a speech here and he has said on both the occasions that the Central team will go as soon as the final assessment has been given. The final assessment was submitted on 9th. Seven days have passed today and the Central team has not gone. The Central team should have been to there and some money should have started flowing from the Central exchequer. Already the State Government has spent Rs seven crores. This is over and above the margin money which has already been spent on the North Bengal floods. So, the State Government does not have any margin money. It is spending entirely out of its own resources by diverting funds from other sources. The Central funds must flow immediately because the State Government is spending at the rate of Rs 10 lakhs per day and it cannot carry on with the relief works if the Central funds do not flow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That is all.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : So, I would request the Central Minister to see that the funds start flowing on the basis of the State Government... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That has been said three or four times.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The State Government has requested that they have spent so much. So, on that basis, some funds can already start flowing even before the Central team goes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have said it four times now. That is what he has said. It is all right now. It does not form part of the record...

*(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): Sir, we are very much concerned about the tragedy and I have myself seen how wide-spread damage has been done to the people...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA: What is the sanctity of this, Sir?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is the last day of the session. It is my compassion that I have brought it. I have brought it because I have the compassion. Otherwise it would not have come here.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: He has not visited Andamans, Sir. He should have visited Andamans also.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, immediately on the direction of the Prime Minister, I visited the area and the same night the Prime Minister was kind enough to grant Rs. 20 lakhs to the West Bengal Government for immediate relief. Later on, after seeing our report, the Prime Minister was further pleased to grant Rs. 30 lakhs as a relief measure for the West Bengal Government.

So far as the money matter is concerned, I told the Government there, the Finance Minister also, that they ~~can go on~~ with relief measures. We shall ~~depute the~~ team immediately after receiving their detailed memorandum and I am right to inform the hon. Members that the Memorandum was received on 9th December. A team was constituted on 14th December and because they have to plan the visit in consultation with the State Government, the team is going on the evening of 18th December. It is proposed that on 19th and 20th, they will visit North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas. On 21st

they will hold discussions with the State Government and return back on 21st evening, and immediately after that, they will finalise the recommendations. I can assure the hon. Members that the ceiling of expenditure will be approved before the end of this month within the shortest possible time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Within this month?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Yes, within this month. So far as the immediate relief is concerned, the State Government have the money available with them. If there is any difficulty of ways and means, we can look into that. Otherwise, as I enquired from the Finance Minister, he told me that there is no difficulty for ways and means. Therefore, he can spend from his own account. After that we shall give the money on the norms that have been...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: They have already spent what they had got.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: So, they have got the money with them, the way and means money. There is no difficulty about that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is what they have said they can get it reimbursed. That is what he has said.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: So, they can spend the money. Their position, you will be happy to know, is sound and they can spend the money. There is no problem of money with them.

Now, Sir, the second thing is about the norms of assistance that is provided for house building, for cattle, for marginal and small farmers. Those norms were recently

revised in the year 1986...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Do you consider that Rs. 500 are enough?

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SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: No, not that. Those norms are there. For fully damaged houses, particular units, for relocation and construction, it is Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 500 for only construction and for repair and partially damaged houses it is Rs. 200/-. This is the assistance given. Otherwise, for other purpose for goat and other things, for desilting, for animals, assistance to small and marginal farmers, to handloom weavers, all these classes are classified and there norms are settled. From time to time as the need arises, norms are revised. But at present this is the norm. We shall see if anything more can be done.

Now, after my team goes there, they will have detailed discussions with the officials of the State Government and they will try to find out some way out to assist the people who have suffered. So far as the grains are concerned, sufficient grains have been provided to the West Bengal Government and their requirement will be met further also. I am can assure you this.

Sir, so far as Andaman and Nicobar Islands are concerned, we have not received any information from them. We have received information that there has been slight damage, not much. There is not much to be done in the case of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is for the State Administration there to take care of this and if they forward any demand or Memorandum we can certainly look into that. So far as medicines are concerned, there is sufficient medicine with the Government and we have also assured that whatever medicines are required, we will immediately make them available.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What about polythene?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Yes, that we have already provided they are lifting it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Whether it will be sufficient...?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: They will be provided. We have asked them to lift as much as possible but they have a very strict rule and restriction on polythene. Unless they inspect, they will not accept any inch of polythene. But that is the limiting factor. Otherwise I can do whatever is possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever steps are needed for the people, I think they will be taken.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Yes, whatever is needed, we shall try to fulfil. I can assure you, Sir, I can assure again the hon. Members that the Central Government is so much seized of this and whatever assistance is required we shall be making them available. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I said. They need relief because they are in distress. Whatever should be done at the earliest possible time because I have seen in Punjab and I have seen elsewhere also. This is the urgency of the matter and I think as the hon. Minister has taken care of that, he will seize of the situation and he has got that compassion and he will do whatever he can.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I

just like to submit that this Session has been a momentous Session, particularly because of the Electoral Reform Legislation which was enacted. Sir, under your guidance, this session has gone on very well and we are quite happy about it. The Deputy-Speaker has been putting in a lot of hard work and taking a lot of burden I must say quite ably under your able guidance. The Members on both sides took a lot of interest in this session and spoke on various matters, on various subjects and I must thank all the Members from both sides. I must particularly thank the leaders of the Opposition for the cooperation that they have been extending from time to time.

Then, Sir, I would like to thank the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Secretary-General. They have been given encomiums rightly from time to time in this House also and we are very happy with them. Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Department takes a lot of burden in these days and I think they also deserve a special mention for the hard work. I am talking of the officers and the staff, not about myself. I have always been keen to thank the Marshal. At least I can speak for myself and say that he knows the rules better than myself.

Then, Sir, I will be failing in my duty if I do not thank my colleague, Shrimati Sheila Dikshit. I must also thank all the staff including the Watch & Ward and all the other staff who have been doing their job very well.

Last but not the least, I must thank the press who have been covering the Session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: We are thanking ourselves and congratulating ourselves.

MR. SPEAKER: Why not? You have done your job

Hon'ble Members, as the Twelfth Session of Eighth Lok Sabha comes to a close today. I consider it my duty to thank all sections of the House on behalf of myself and my colleagues—the Deputy Speaker and the members of the Panel of Chairmen—for the cooperation extended to us in conducting the proceedings of the House smoothly.

In this short session, we had 24 sittings lasting over 154 hours approximately.

In the annals of the Parliamentary democracy, this Session would go down as a historic Session, as about five crores of our youth between the age group of 18 and 21 years would now become entitled to exercise their right of franchise. This House exhibited rare unanimity yesterday in adopting the Constitution (Sixty-second Amendment) Bill, 1988—Sixty-First Amendment of the Constitution—giving voting rights to the youth. Besides, the House has given its stamp of approval to some much needed reforms in the electoral system by passing the Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 1988.

In all, the House considered and passed 15 Government Bills during this Session. Apart from the above two Bills, the other important Bills considered and passed were, the Constitution (Sixtieth Amendment) Bill; the National Highways Authority of India Bill, the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill.

As many as 128 Questions were asked and answered orally on the floor of the House. Besides, we had discussions on seven Calling Attention notices and two Half-an-Hour Discussions.

The House discussed the serious situation arising out of the recent accidents

involving the Indian Airlines aircraft on an adjournment motion.

Five Short Duration Discussions were held under Rule 193 concerning demands of farmers and agricultural labour; Bofors gun deal; rise in prices of essential commodities; dismal performance of Indian sportsmen in the Seoul Olympic Games; and the damage due to cyclone in West Bengal, Orissa and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The question is, though we might not have discussed it in full length, but the impact—the crux of the problem is that we have to pin-point it. Every Member would have highlighted the same thing. But the question is, when we realise that something bad has happened, it is something which touches everybody's heart.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: One Calling Attention went on for two-and-a-half hours today.

MR. SPEAKER: We could have done by cutting half of that; but in spite of that, I think the gravity of the situation has been given the due importance and I think the Minister in charge has said that it will be taken care of. Everywhere, wherever this calamity strikes, the people do suffer and we as human beings must share it with them and try to help them to the extent possible. I think the Government will do its best.

Members also raised 180 matters under Rule 377.

Statutory Resolutions approving the continuance of President's Rule in the State of Punjab and the imposition of President's Rule in the State of Mizoram were also discussed and adopted and adopted by the House.

So far as financial business is concerned, Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) as also those in respect of

[Mr. Speaker]

the States of Tamil Nadu and Punjab for the year 1988-89 were discussed and voted.

We celebrated the birth centenary of Shri G.V. Mavalankar in a befitting manner by holding several functions commemorating the great Speaker of our times.

The United Nations Organisation and its member-States, including our country, observed the 40th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations on 10th December, 1988. A reference to that effect was made by me in the House on 7th December.

During this Session, I was called upon to take a decision on the Report of the Privilege Committee on the petition filed by Shri Ram Pyare Panika against Shri Lalduhoma, M.P. on a careful examination of the relevant records and the findings of the Committee, I had to declare with a heavy heart that Shri Lalduhoma had incurred disqualification for being a Member of the House. Shri Lalduhoma accordingly ceased to be a Member with effect from 24th November, 1988.

This is the first case in our Parliament of a Member having lost his seat for violation of the provisions of the Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act.

Let me once again thank all hon. Members for the love and affection bestowed on me personally and the appreciation extended to the Secretariat during its Diamond Jubilee Year. All this has gone a long way in helping me discharge the duties which you have cast on me. I am beholden to each one of you for the same.

I also must say that most of the burden has been carried by my very very able Deputy-Speaker. I heartily thank him for the

burden he has carried. I have been allowed by him to sit and talk and do other things. I thank all the valiant Members of the Panel of Chairmen. The question is to sit here and to see and talk. I have noticed that Deputy-Speaker has been sitting in the House for 7 1/2 hours. That is something of a record. We must compliment him. I must also compliment my Chairmen, Mr. Somnath Rath and all others who are here.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sheila Dikshit Ji also.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, with her very fine, bewitching smile, my sister here keeps us all enlightened and happy. Whenever she just peeps through the curtain and asks, "May I come in?", I say, "You have already come in, Sister; you are always welcome". And, she brings a sort of fresh breath of life and spring.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We never enjoyed this.

MR. SPEAKER: You are welcome then. How did you miss it so long?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I never got the chance.

MR. SPEAKER: Didn't you see today? That is what it is.

same is about the Chief Whip, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, here.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Young!

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, he is young. He has a broad smile.

SHRI D.P. YADAV: He is kind.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it? Then, I appreciate that too. I thank all his colleagues, specially all the Members from both sides of the House, whether they be on this side or that

side, that does not matter for me. I respect you all. I have the highest regard for the Members of Lok Sabha as a whole. It is a family. Whatever may be the question that we might be discussing here—politically or ideologically—but outside the House, I think, we are proud to have the best of relations amongst us and that is the crux of parliamentary democracy. Our war is ideological. It is not personal. It is just a question of the cross-section of ideas hitting at one another but not hitting personally. I think, we should try to uphold that tradition. You have created and in times to come, I think, you will be creating very fine conventions and traditions. Throughout the world, we keep our heads high and hold our heads high because of you all, because you are the representatives of this great democratic nation of 800 million people. I am proud to represent you outside when I go.

SHRI BASUDEB AGHARIA: In the absence of Prof. Madhu Dandavate, we are feeling lonely.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I am also feeling lonely, you see.

I must thank all the members of my staff here, in the Lok Sabha Secretariat—the Watch and Ward and everybody else. They have been contributing so nicely. They are so intelligent. I also thank all the agencies involved. Marshal, you are perfect. He will never miss the point and I am very happy.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: We never treat him as Marshal.

MR. SPEAKER: He is Comrade Mar-

shal. That is what it is. I am very happy that all the people have contributed—Translators, Interpreters and others. The people up there, who are sitting above my head, the Press Gallery—they have been also too benevolent and I thank them for their fine cooperation.

Let me wish you all a Very Happy New Year because we will meet in the New Year.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why not early?

MR. SPEAKER: Earlier also, might-be, it could be. I am happy whenever you are here. I want to keep this show going on. I am never tired of it.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Happy Christmas to everybody.

MR. SPEAKER: Happy Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy New Season to everybody.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Happy Return, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, sure, Chowdhary. You always come back with a gusto, I think. Last time, I noticed that you were rather thin. But this time, you have come in robust health and I wish you good luck. Thank you very much.

The House now stands adjourned *sine die*.

18.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned *sine die*

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